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THE
WORKS
OF
Alexander Pope Esq.
VOLUME II.
CONTAINING HIS
TRANSLATIONS
AND
IMITATIONS.

LONDON,
Printed for A. MILLAR, J. and R. TONSON,
H. LINTOT, and C. BATHURST.
MDCCCLVII.

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SECOND VOLUME

[illegible]

S A P P H O

S A P P H O

T O

P H A N .

H. Vol.

S A P P H O

P H A O N I.

ECQUID, ut inspecta est studiosae littera dextrae,
 Protinus est oculis cognita nostra tuis ?

An, nisi legisses auctoris nomina Sapphūs,

Hoc breve nescires unde movetur opus ?

Forſitan et quare mea ſint alterna requiras

5

Carmina, cum lyricis ſim magis apta modis.

Flendus amor meus eſt : elegeia flebile carmen ;

Non facit ad lacrymas barbitos ulla meas.

Uror, ut, indomitis ignem exercentibus Euris,

Fertilis accenſis meſſibus ardet ager.

10

Arva Phaon celebrat diverſa Typhoïdos Aetnae,

Me calor Aetnaeo non minor igne coquit.

Nec mihi, diſpoſitis quae jungam carmina nervis,

Proveniunt ; vacuae carmina mentis opus.

S A P P H O

T O P H A O N.

SAY, lovely youth, that do'st my heart command,
 Can Phaon's eyes forget his Sappho's hand?
 Must then her name the wretched writer prove,
 To thy remembrance lost, as to thy love?
 Ask not the cause that I new numbers chuse,
 The Lute neglected, and the Lyric muse;
 Love taught my tears in sadder notes to flow,
 And tun'd my heart to Elegies of woe.
 I burn, I burn, as when through ripen'd corn
 By driving winds the spreading flames are born! 10
 Phaon to Ætna's scorching fields retires,
 While I consume with more than Ætna's fires!
 No more my soul a charm in music finds;
 Music has charms alone for peaceful minds.

4 S A P P H O P H A O N I.

Nec me Pyrrhiades Methymniadesve puellae, 15

Nec me Lesbium caetera turba juvant.

Vilis Anactorie, vilis mihi candida Cydno:

Non oculis grata est Atthis, ut ante, meis; 20

Atque aliae centum, quas non sine crimine amavi:

Improbe, multarum quod fuit, unus habes. 20

Est in te facies, sunt apti lusibus anni.

O facies oculis infidiosa meis!

Sume fidem et pharetram; fies manifestus Apollo:

Accedant capiti cornua; Bacchus eris.

Et Phoebus Daphnen, et Gnosida Bacchus amavit;

Nec norat lyricos illa, vel illa modos. 30

At mihi Pegasides blandissima carmina dicant;

Jam canitur toto nomen in orbe meum.

Nec plus Alcaeus, consors patriaeque lyraeque,

Laudis habet, quamvis grandius ille sonet.

Si mihi difficilis formam natura negavit; 35

Ingenio formae damna rependo meae.

Sum brevis; at nomen, quod terras impleat omnes,

Est mihi; mensuram nominis ipsa fero. 40

SAPPHO TO PHAON.

3

Soft scenes of solitude no more can please, 15
 Love enters there, and I'm my own disease.
 No more the Lesbian dames my passion move,
 Once the dear Objects of my guilty love;
 All other loves are lost in only thine,
 Ah youth ungrateful to a flame like mine! 20
 Whom would not all those blooming charms surprize,
 Those heav'nly looks, and dear deluding eyes?
 The harp and bow would you like Phœbus bear,
 A brighter Phœbus Phaon might appear;
 Would you with ivy wreath your flowing hair, 25
 Not Bacchus' self with Phaon could compare:
 Yet Phœbus lov'd, and Bacchus felt the flame,
 One Daphne warm'd, and one the Cretan dame;
 Nymphs that in verse no more could rival me, 29
 Than ev'n those Gods contend in charms with thee.
 The muses teach me all their softest lays,
 And the wide world resounds with Sappho's praise.
 Tho' great Alcæus more sublimely sings,
 And strikes with bolder rage the sounding strings,
 No less renown attends the moving lyre, 35
 Which Venus tunes, and all her loves inspire;
 To me what nature has in charms deny'd,
 Is well by wit's more lasting flames supply'd.
 Tho' short my stature, yet my name extends
 To heav'n itself, and earth's remotest ends. 40

6 SAPPHO PHAONI

Candida si non sum, placuit Cepheia Perseo

Andromede, patriae fusca colore suae :

Et variis albae junguntur saepe columbae,

Et niger a viridi turtur amatur ave.

Si, nisi quae facie poterit te digna videri, - 45

Nulla futura tua est ; nulla futura tua est.

At me cum legeres, etiam formosa videbar ;

Unam jurabas usque decere loqui.

Cantabam, memini (meminerunt omnia amantes)

Oscula cantanti tu mihi rapta dabas. 50

Haec quoque laudabas ; omnique a parte placebam,

Sed tum praecipue, cum fit amoris opus,

Tunc te plus solito lascivia nostra juvabat, 60

Crebraque mobilitas, aptaque verba joco ;

Quique, ubi jam amborum fuerat confusa voluptas,

Plurimus in lasso corpore languor erat.

Nunc tibi Sicelides veniunt nova praeda puellae ;

Quid mihi cum Lesbos ? Sicelis esse volo.

At vos erronem tellure remittite nostrum,

Nisiades matres, Nisiadesque nurus.

SAPPHO TO PHAON.

7

Brown as I am, an Ethiopian dame,
 Inspir'd young Perseus with a gen'rous flame;
 Turtles and doves of differing hues unite,
 And glossy jet is pair'd with shining white.
 If to no charms thou wilt thy heart resign, 45
 But such as merit, such as equal thine,
 By none, alas! by none thou can'st be mov'd,
 Phaon alone by Phaon must be lov'd!
 Yet once thy Sappho could thy cares employ,
 Once in her arms you center'd all your joy: 50
 No time the dear remembrance can remove,
 For oh! how vast a memory has love?
 My music, then, you could for ever hear,
 And all my words were music to your ear.
 You stopp'd with kisses my enchanting tongue, 55
 And found my kisses sweeter than my song.
 In all I pleas'd, but most in what was best;
 And the last joy was dearer than the rest.
 Then with each word, each glance, each motion fir'd,
 You still enjoy'd, and yet you still desir'd, 60
 Till all dissolving in the trance we lay,
 And in tumultuous raptures dy'd away.
 The fair Sicilians now thy soul inflame;
 Why was I born, ye Gods, a Lesbian dame?
 But ah beware, Sicilian nymphs! nor boast 65
 That wand'ring heart which I so lately lost;

8 SAPPHO PHAONI.

Neu vos decipiant blandae mendacia linguae: 65

Quae dicit vobis, dixerat ante mihi.

Tu quoque quae montes celebras, Erycina, Sicanos,

(Nam tua sum) vati confule, diva tuae.

An gravis inceptum peragit fortuna tenorem? 70

Et manet in cursu semper acerba suo?

Sex mihi natales ierant, cum lecta parentis

Ante diem lacrymas ossa bibere meas.

Arsit inops frater, victus meretricis amore;

Mistaque cum turpi damna pudore tulit.

Factus inops agili peragit freta coerula remo: 75

Quasque male amisit, nunc male quaerit opes:

Me quoque, quod monui bene multa fideliter, odit.

Hoc mihi libertas, hoc pia lingua dedit.

Et tanquam defint, quae me sine fine fatigent,

Accumulat curas filia parva meas.

Ultima tu nostris accedis causa querelis:

Non agitur vento nostra carina suo. 80

Ecce, jacent collo sparsi sine lege capilli;

Nec premit articulos lucida gemma meos.

Veste tegor vili: nullum est in crinibus aurum:

Non Arabo noster rore capillus olet.

Cui colar infelix? aut cui placuisse laborem?

Ille mihi cultus unicus auctor abest.

Molle meum levibus cor est violabile telis;

Et semper causa est, cur ego semper amem. 90

SAPPHO TO PHAON. 9

Nor be with all those tempting words abus'd,
 Those tempting words were all to Sappho us'd.
 And you that rule Sicilia's happy plains,
 Have pity, Venus, on your Poet's pains!
 Shall fortune still in one sad tenor run,
 And still increase the woes so soon begun?
 Inur'd to sorrow from my tender years,
 My parent's ashes drank my early tears :
 My brother next, neglecting wealth and fame,
 Ignobly burn'd in a destructive flame :
 An infant daughter late my griefs increas'd,
 And all a mother's cares distract my breast.
 Alas, what more could fate itself impose,
 But thee, the last and greatest of my woes ?
 No more my robes in waving purple flow,
 Nor on my hand the sparkling di'monds glow ;
 No more my locks in ringlets curl'd diffuse
 The costly sweetness of Arabian dews,
 Nor braids of gold the varied tresses bind,
 That fly disorder'd with the wanton wind :
 For whom should Sappho use such arts as these ?
 He's gone, whom only she desir'd to please !
 Cupid's light darts my tender bosom move,
 Still is there cause for Sappho still to love :
 So from my birth the Sisters fix'd my doom,
 And gave to Venus all my life to come ;

10 S A P P H O P H A O N I

Sive ita nascenti legem dixere sorores.

Nec data sunt vitae fila severa meae;

Sive abeunt studia in mores, artesque magistrae,

Ingenium nobis molle Thalia facit.

Quid mirum, si me primae lanuginis aetas

Abstulit, atque anni, quos vir amare potest

Hunc ne pro Cephalo raperes, Aurora, timebam:

Et faceres; sed te prima rapina tenet.

Hunc si conspiciat quae conspicit omnia, Phoebe;

Iussus erit somnos continuare Phaon.

Hunc Venus in coelum curru vexisset eburno;

Sed videt et Marti posse placere suo.

O nec adhuc juvenis, nec jam puer! utilis aetas!

O decus, atque aevi gloria magna tui!

Huc ades, inque sinus, formose, relabere nostros:

Non ut ames oro, verum ut amare sinas.

Scribimus, et lacrymis oculi rorantur obortis:

Aspice, quam sit in hoc multa litura loco.

Si tam certus eras hinc ire, modestius isles,

Et modo dixisses: Lesbii puella, vale.

Non tecum lacrymas, non oscula summa tulisti;

Denique non timui, quod dolitura fui.

Nil de te mecum est, nisi tantum injuria: nec tu,

Admonéat quod te, pignus amantis habes.

SAPPHO TO PHAON. 11

Or, while my Muse in melting notes complains,
 My yielding heart keeps measure to my strains.
 By charms like thine which all my soul have won,
 Who might not—ah! who would not be undone?
 For those Aurora Cephalus might scorn,
 And with fresh blushes paint the conscious morn.
 For those might Cynthia lengthen Phaon's sleep,
 And bid Endymion nightly tend his sheep. 100
 Venus for those had rapt thee to the skies,
 But Mars on thee might look with Venus' eyes.
 O scarce a youth, yet scarce a tender boy!
 O useful time for lovers to employ!
 Pride of thy age, and glory of thy race, 105
 Come to these arms, and melt in this embrace!
 The vows you never will return, receive;
 And take at least the love you will not give.
 See, while I write, my words are lost in tears!
 The less my sense, the more my love appears. 110
 Sure 'twas not much to bid one kind adieu,
 (At least to feign was never hard to you)
 Farewell, my Lesbian love, you might have said;
 Or coldly thus, Farewell, oh Lesbian maid!
 No tear did you, no parting kiss receive, 115
 Nor knew I then how much I was to grieve.
 No lover's gift your Sappho could confer,
 And wrongs and woes were all you left with her.

Non mandata dedi; neque enim mandata dedissem

Ulla, nisi ut nolles immemor esse mei. 120

Per tibi, qui nunquam longe discedat; Amorem;

Perque novem juro, numina nostra, Deas;

Cum mihi nescio quis, Fugiat tua gaudia, dixit:

Nec me flere diu, nec potuisse loqui;

Et lacrymae deerant oculis, et lingua palato;

Astrictum gelido frigore pectus erat.

Postquam se dolor invenit; nec pectora plangi;

Nec puduit scissis exululare comis.

Non aliter quam si nati pia mater adempti

Portet ad extructos corpus inane rogos.

Gaudet, et e nostro crescit moerore Charaxus. 135

Frater; et ante oculos itque reditque meos.

Utque pudenda mei videatur causa doloris;

Quid dolet haec? certe filia vivit, ait.

Non veniunt in idem pudor atque amor; omne videbat

Vulgus; eram lacero pectus aperta sinu. 140

Tu mihi cura, Phaon; te somnia nostra reducant;

Somnia formoso candidiora die.

SAPPHO TO PHAON 13

No charge I gave you, and no charge could give,
 But this, Be mindful of our loves, and live. 120
 Now by the Nine, those pow'rs ador'd by me,
 And Love, the God that ever waits on thee,
 When first I heard (from whom I hardly knew)
 That you were fled, and all my joys with you,
 Like some sad statue, speechless, pale I stood,
 Grief chill'd my breast, and stopp'd my freezing blood;
 No sigh to rise, no tear had pow'r to flow,
 Fix'd in a stupid lethargy of woe:
 But when its way th'impetuous passion found,
 I rend my tresses, and my breast I wound; 130
 I rave, then weep; I curse, and then complain;
 Now swell to rage, now melt in tears again.
 Not fiercer pangs distract the mournful dame,
 Whose first-born infant feeds the fun'ral flame.
 My scornful brother with a smile appears, 135
 Insults my woes, and triumphs in my tears,
 His hated image ever haunts my eyes,
 And why this grief? thy daughter lives, he cries.
 Stung with my love, and furious with despair,
 All torn my garments, and my bosom bare, 140
 My woes, thy crimes, I to the world proclaim;
 Such inconsistent things are love and shame!
 'Tis thou art all my care and my delight,
 My daily longing, and my dream by night:

24 SAPPHOPHONL

Illic te invenio, quanquam regionibus absis; 145

Sed non longa satis gaudia somnus habet.

Saepe tuos nostra cervice onerare lacertos,

Saepe tuae videor supposuisse meos. 150

Blandior interdum, verisque simillima verba

Eloquor; et vigilant sensibus ora meis.

Oscula cognosco; quae tu committere linguae,

Aptaque consuevas accipere, apta dare.

Ulteriora pudet narrare; sed omnia fiunt.

Et juvat, et sine te non libet esse mihi.

At cum se Titan ostendit, et omnia secum;

Tam cito me somnos destituisse queror.

Antra nemusque peto, tanquam nemus, antraque pro-

fint. 160

Conscia delictis illa fuere tuis.

Illuc mentis inops, ut quam furialis Erichtho

Impulit, in collo crine jacente feror.

Antra vident oculi scabro pendentia topho,

Quae mihi Mygdonii marmoris instar erant.

Invenio sylvam, quae saepe cubilia nobis 166

Praebuit, et multa texit opaca coma.

At non invenio dominum sylvaeque, meumque.

Vile solum locus est: dos erat ille loci.

SAPPHO TO PHAON. 115

Oh night more pleasing than the brightest day, 145
 When fancy gives what absence takes away,
 And, dress'd in all its visionary charms,
 Restores my fair deserter to my arms!
 Then round your neck in wanton wreaths I twine,
 Then you, methinks, as fondly circle mine; 150
 A thousand tender words I hear and speak;
 A thousand melting kisses give, and take;
 Then fiercer joys, I blush to mention these,
 Yet, while I blush, confess how much they please.
 But when, with day, the sweet delusions fly, 155
 And all things wake to life and joy, but I,
 As if once more forsaken, I complain,
 And close my eyes to dream of you again:
 Then frantic rise, and like some Fury rove 160
 Thro' lonely plains, and thro' the silent grove,
 As if the silent grove, and lonely plains,
 That knew my pleasures, could relieve my pains.
 I view the grotto, once the scene of love,
 The rocks around, the hanging roofs above,
 That charm'd me more, with native moss o'ergrown,
 Than Phrygian marble, or the Parian stone. 166
 I find the shades that veil'd our joys before;
 But, Phaon gone, those shades delight no more.
 Here the press'd herbs with bending tops betray
 Where oft entwin'd in am'rous folds we lay; 170

Agnovi pressas noti mihi cespitis herbas : 170

De nostro curvum pondere gramen erat.

Incubui, tetigique locum qua parte fuisti ;

Grata prius lacrymas combibit herba meas.

Quinetiam rami positos lugere videntur

Frondibus ; et nullae dulce queruntur aves.

Sola virum non ulta pie moestissima mater 175

Concinit Ismarium Daulias ales Ityn.

Ales Ityn, Sappho desertos cantat amores :

Hactenus, ut media caetera nocte silent.

Est nitidus, vitroque magis perlucidus omni, 180

Fons facer ; hunc multi numen habere putant.

Quem supra ramos expandit aquatica lotos,

Una nemus ; tenero cespite terra viret.

Hic ego cum lassos posuissem fletibus artus, 185

Constitit ante oculos Naïas una meos.

Constitit, et dixit, " Quoniam non ignibus aequis

" Ureris, Ambracias terra petenda tibi.

" Phoebus ab excelfo, quantum patet, aspexit aequor :

" Actiacum populi Leucadiumque vocant.

" Hinc se Deucalion Pyrrhae succensus amore

" Misit, et illaeso corpore pressit aquas. 195

" Nec mora : versus Amor tetigit lentissima Pyrrhae

" Pectora ; Deucalion igne levatus erat.

S A P P H O T O O P H A O N 2 17

I kiss that earth which once was press'd by you, 17
And all with tears the with'ring herbs bedew. 18
For thee the fading trees appear to mourn, 19
And birds defer their songs till thy return; 20
Night shades the groves, and all in silence lie, 21
All but the mournful Philomel and I: 22
With mournful Philomel I join my strain, 23
Of Tereus she, of Phaon I complain. 24

A spring there is, whose silver waters show, 25
Clear as a glass, the shining sands below: 26
A flow'ry Lotos spreads its arms above, 27
Shades all the banks, and seems itself a grove; 28
Eternal greens the mossy margin grace, 29
Watch'd by the sylvan Genius of the place. 30
Here as I lay, and swell'd with tears the flood, 31
Before my sight a wat'ry Virgin stood: 32
She stood and cry'd, "O you that love in vain! 33
" Fly hence, and seek the fair Leucadian main; 34
" There stands a rock, from whose impending steep 35
" Apollo's fane surveys the rolling deep; 36
" There injur'd lovers, leaping from above, 37
" Their flames extinguish, and forget to love. 38
" Deucalion once with hopeless fury burn'd, 39
" In vain he lov'd, relentless Pyrrha scorn'd: 40
" But when from hence he plung'd into the main, 41
" Deucalion scorn'd, and Pyrrha lov'd in vain. 42

18 SAPPHOPHONI.

"Hanc legem locus ille tenet, pete protinus altam
"Leucada; nec saxo defluisse time."

Ut monuit, cum voce abiit. Ego frigida surgo : 200

Nec gravidæ lacrymas continuere genæ.

Ibimus, o Nymphae, monstrataque saxa petemus.

Sit procul infano victus amore timor.

Quicquid erit, melius quam nunc erit : aura, subito.

Et mea non magnum corpora pondus habent.

Tu quoque, mollis Amor, pennas suppone cadenti :

Ne sim Leucadiæ mortua crimen aquæ.

Inde chelyn Phoebo communia munera ponam :

Et sub ea versus unus et alter erunt.

"Grata lyram posui tibi, Phoebe, poëtria Sappho :

"Convenit illa mihi, convenit illa tibi."

Cur tamen Aëtiacas miseram me mittis ad oras,

Cum profugum possis ipse referre pedem ?

Tu mihi Leucadia potes esse salubrior unda : 220

Et forma et meritis tu mihi Phoebus eris.

An potes, o scopulis undaque ferocior illa,

Si moriar, titulum mortis habere meæ ?

SAPPHO TO PHAON 19

"Haste, Sappho, haste, from high Leucadia throw

"Thy wretched weight, nor dread the deeps below!"

She spoke, and vanish'd with the voice—I rise,

And silent tears fall trickling from my eyes. 200

I go, ye Nymphs! those rocks and seas to prove;

How much I fear, but ah, how much I love!

I go, ye Nymphs, where furious love inspires;

Let female fears submit to female fires.

To rocks and seas I fly from Phaon's hate, 205

And hope from seas and rocks a milder fate.

Ye gentle gales, beneath my body blow,

And softly lay me on the waves below!

And thou, kind Love, my sinking limbs sustain,

Spread thy soft wings, and waft me o'er the main,

Nor let a Lover's death the guiltless flood profane! }

On Phœbus' shrine my harp I'll then bestow, 212

And this Inscription shall be plac'd below,

"Here she who sung, to him that did inspire,

"Sappho to Phœbus consecrates her Lyre; 215

"What suits with Sappho, Phœbus, suits with thee;

"The gift, the giver, and the God agree."

But why, alas, relentless youth, ah why

To distant Seas must tender Sappho fly?

Thy charms than those may far more pow'rful be,

And Phœbus' self is less a God to me. 221

Ah! can'st thou doom me to the rocks and sea,

Oh far more faithless and more hard than they?

At quanto melius jungi mea pectora tecum,

Quam poterant faxis praecipitanda dari ! 225

Haec sunt illa, Phaon, quae tu laudare solebas ;

Visaque sunt toties ingeniosa tibi.

Nunc vellem facunda forent : dolor artibus obstat ;

Ingeniumque meis substitit omne malis.

Non mihi respondent veteres in carmina vires. 230

Plectra dolore tacent : muta dolore lyra est.

Lesbides aequoreae, nupturaque nuptaque proles ;

Lesbides, Aeolia nomina dicta lyra ;

Lesbides, infamem quae me fecistis amatae ;

Definite ad citharas turba venire meas.

Abstulit omne Phaon, quod vobis ante placebat. 235

(Me miseram ! dixi quam modo pene, meus !)

Efficite ut redeat : vates quoque vestra redibit.

Ingenio vires ille dat, ille rapit. 240

Ecquid ago precibus ? pectusne agreste movetur ?

An riget ? et Zephyri verba caduca ferunt ?

Qui mea verba ferunt, vellem tua vela referrent.

Hoc te, si sciperes, lente, decebat opus.

Sive redis, puppique tuae votiva parantur

Munera ; quid laceras pectora nostra mora ?

SAPPHO TO PHAON. 21

Ah ! canst thou rather see this tender breast
 Dash'd on these rocks than to thy bosom prest ? 225
 This breast which once, in vain ! you lik'd so well,
 Where the Loves play'd, and where the Muses dwell.
 Alas ! the Muses now no more inspire,
 Untun'd my lute, and silent is my lyre,
 My languid numbers have forgot to flow, 230
 And fancy sinks beneath a weight of woe.
 Ye Lesbian virgins, and ye Lesbian dames,
 Themes of my verse, and objects of my flames,
 No more your groves with my glad songs shall ring,
 No more these hands shall touch the trembling string :
 My Phaon's fled, and I those arts resign 236
 (Wretch that I am, to call that Phaon mine !)
 Return, fair youth, return, and bring along
 Joy to my soul, and vigour to my song :
 Absent from thee, the Poet's flame expires ; 240
 But ah ! how fiercely burn the Lover's fires ?
 Gods ! can no pray'rs, no sighs, no numbers move
 One savage heart, or teach it how to love ?
 The winds my pray'rs, my sighs, my numbers bear,
 The flying winds have lost them all in air ! 245
 Or when, alas ! shall more auspicious gales
 To these fond eyes restore thy welcome sails ?
 If you return—ah why these long delays ?
 Poor Sappho dies while careless Phaon stays.

Solve ratem : Venus orta mari, mare praestet eunti.

Aura dabit cursum ; tu modo solve ratem.

Ipse gubernabit residens in puppe Cupido :

Ipse dabit tenera vela legetque manu.

Sive juvat longe fugisse Pelasgida Sappho ;

(Non tamen invenies, cur ego digna fuga.) 255

[O saltem miserae, Crudelis, epistola dicat :

Ut mihi Leucadiae fata petantur aquae.]

SAPPHO TO PHAON. 23

O launch thy bark, nor fear the wat'ry plain; 250
Venus for thee shall smooth her native main.

O launch thy bark, secure of prosp'rous gales;
Cupid for thee shall spread the swelling sails.

If you will fly—(yet ah! what cause can be,
Too cruel youth, that you should fly from me?)

If not from Phaon I must hope for ease, 256

Ah let me seek it from the raging seas:

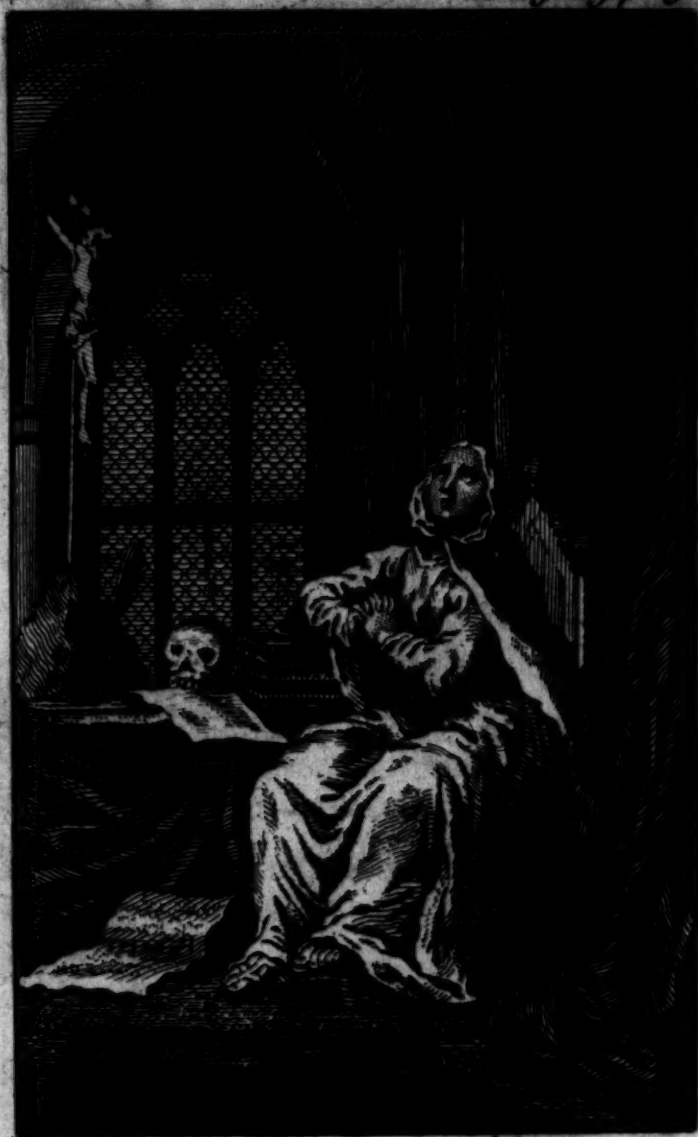
To raging seas unpity'd I'll remove,

And either cease to live or cease to love!

O launch thy bark, nor fear the wat'ry plain;
 Vener for thee shall smooth her native main.
 O launch thy bark, secure of prosperous gales;
 Cupid for thee shall spread the swelling sails.
 If you will fly—(yet ah! what can be
 Too cruel youth, that you should fly from me?)
 If not from Phæon I must hope for ease,

A R G U M E N T.

ABELARD and Eloisa flourished in the twelfth Century; they were two of the most distinguished persons of their age in learning and beauty, but for nothing more famous than for their unfortunate passion. After a long course of calamities, they retired each to a several Convent, and consecrated the remainder of their days to religion. It was many years after this separation, that a letter of Abelard's to a Friend, which contained the history of his misfortune, fell into the hands of Eloisa. This awakening all her tenderness, occasioned those celebrated letters (out of which the following is partly extracted) which give so lively a picture of the struggles of grace and nature, virtue and passion. P.



*Ah Wretch! believ'd the Spouse of God in vain,
Confess'd within the Slave of Love and Man.*

El. to Ab.

ELOÏSA

TO

ABELARD.

IN these deep solitudes and awful cells,
Where heav'nly-pensive contemplation dwells,
And ever-musing melancholy reigns;
What means this tumult in a Vestal's veins?
Why rove my thoughts beyond this last retreat? 5
Why feels my heart its long-forgotten heat?
Yet, yet I love!—From Abelard it came,
And Eloïsa yet must kiss the name.
Dear fatal name! rest ever unreveal'd,
Nor pass these lips in holy silence seal'd: 10
Hide it, my heart, within that close disguise,
Where mix'd with God's, his lov'd Idea lies:
O write it not my hand—the name appears
Already written—wash it out, my tears!
In vain lost Eloïsa weeps and prays, 15
Her heart still dictates, and her hand obeys.
Relentless walls! whose darksome round contains
Repentant sighs, and voluntary pains:
Ye rugged rocks, which holy knees have worn;
Ye grotts and caverns shagg'd with horrid thorn! 20

26 ELOISA TO ABELARD.

Shrines ! where their vigils pale-ey'd virgins keep,
And pitying saints, whose statues learn to weep !
Tho' cold like you, unmov'd and silent grown,
I have not yet forgot myself to stone.

All is not Heav'n's while Abelard has part, 25
Still rebel nature holds out half my heart ;
Nor pray'rs nor fasts its stubborn pulse restrain,
Nor tears for ages taught to flow in vain.

Soon as thy letters trembling I unclose,
That well-known name awakens all my woes. 30
Oh name for ever sad ! for ever dear !
Still breath'd in sighs, still usher'd with a tear.

I tremble too, where'er my own I find,
Some dire misfortune follows close behind.
Line after line my gushing eyes o'erflow, 35

Led thro' a sad variety of woe :
Now warm in love, now with'ring in my bloom,
Lost in a convent's solitary gloom !
There stern Religion quench'd th' unwilling flame,
There dy'd the best of passions, Love and Fame. 40

Yet write, oh write me all, that I may join
Griefs to thy griefs, and echo sighs to thine.
Nor foes nor fortune take this pow'r away ;
And is my Abelard less kind than they ?
Tears still are mine, and those I need not spare, 45
Love but demands what else were shed in pray'r ;

ELOISA TO ABELARD. 27

No happier task these faded eyes pursue;
To read and weep is all they now can do.

Then share thy pain, allow that sad relief;
Ah, more than share it, give me all thy grief.
Heav'n first taught letters for some wretch's aid,
Some banish'd lover, or some captive maid;
They live, they speak, they breathe what love inspires,
Warm from the soul, and faithful to its fires;
The virgin's wish without her fears impart,
Excuse the blush, and pour out all the heart,
Speed the soft intercourse from soul to soul,
And waft a sigh from Indus to the pole.

Thou know'st how guiltless first I met thy flame,
When Love approach'd me under friendship's name;
My fancy form'd thee of angelic kind,
Some emanation of th' all-beauteous mind.
Those smiling eyes, attemp'ring ev'ry ray,
Shone sweetly lambent with celestial day.
Guiltless I gaz'd, heav'n listen'd while you sung;
And truths divine came mended from that tongue.
From lips like those what precept fail'd to move?
Too soon they taught me 'twas no sin to love:
Back thro' the paths of pleasing sense I ran,
Nor with'd an Angel whom I lov'd a man.

NOTES.

VER. 66. *And truths divine, etc.*] He was her Preceptor in Philosophy and Divinity.

28 ELOISA TO ABELARD.

Dim and remote the joys of saints I see;
Nor envy them that heav'n I lose for thee.

How oft, when press'd to marriage, have I said,
Curse on all laws but those which love has made?
Love, free as air, at sight of human ties,
Spreads his light wings, and in a moment flies.
Let wealth, let honour, wait the wedded dame,
August her deed, and sacred be her fame;
Before true passion all those views remove;
Fame, wealth, and honour! what are you to Love?
The jealous God, when we profane his fires,
Those restless passions in revenge inspires,
And bids them make mistaken mortals groan,
Who seek in love for aught but love alone.

Should at my feet the world's great master fall, 85
Himself, his throne, his world, I'd scorn 'em all:
Not Cæsar's empress would I deign to prove;
No, make me mistress to the man I love;
If there be yet another name more free,
More fond than mistress, make me that to thee! 90
Oh! happy state! when souls each other draw,
When love is liberty, and nature, law:

IMITATIONS.

VER. 75.

Love will not be confin'd by Maisterie:
When Maisterie comes, the Lord of Love anon
Flutters his wings, and forthwith is he gone.

ELOISA TO ABELARD 89

All then is full, possessing and possest,
No craving void left aking in the breast: 94
Ev'n thought meets thought, ere from the lips it part,
And each warm wish springs mutual from the heart:
This sure is bliss (if bliss on earth there be)
And once the lot of Abelard and me.

Alas how chang'd! what sudden horrors rise!
A naked Lover bound and bleeding lies!
Where, where was Eloïse? her voice, her hand,
Her ponyard had oppos'd the dire command:
Barbarian, stay! that bloody stroke restrain;
The crime was common, common be the pain.
I can no more, by shame, by rage suppress'd, 105
Let tears, and burning blushes speak the rest.

Canst thou forget that sad, that solemn day,
When victims at yon altar's foot we lay?
Canst thou forget what tears that moment fell,
When, warm in youth, I bade the world farewell?
As with cold lips I kiss'd the sacred veil, 111
The shrines all trembled, and the lamps grew pale:
Heav'n scarce believ'd the Conquest it survey'd,
And Saints with wonder heard the vows I made.
Yet then, to those dread altars as I drew, 115
Not on the Cross my eyes were fix'd, but you:
Not grace, or zeal, love only was my call,
And if I lose thy love, I lose my all.

28 ELOISA TO ABELIARD.

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Nor envy them that heav'n I lose for thee.

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If there be yet another name more free,
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IMITATIONS.

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When Maisterie comes, the Lord of Love anon
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ELOISA TO ABELARD 29

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And each warm wish springs mutual from the heart.
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And once the lot of Abelard and me.

Alas how chang'd! what sudden horrors rise!
A naked Lover bound and bleeding lies! 100
Where, where was Eloise? her voice, her hand,
Her ponyard had oppos'd the dire command!
Barbarian, stay! that bloody stroke restrain;
The crime was common, common be the pain.
I can no more, by shame, by rage suppress'd, 105
Let tears, and burning blushes speak the rest.

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Not grace, or zeal, love only was my call,
And if I lose thy love, I lose my all.

30 ELOISA TO ABELARD.

Come! with thy looks, thy words, relieve my woe;
 Those still at least are left thee to bestow. 120
 Still on that breast enamour'd let me lie,
 Still drink delicious poison from thy eye.
 Pant on thy lip, and to thy heart be press'd;
 Give all thou canst—and let me dream the rest.
 Ah no! instruct me other joys to prize, 125
 With other beauties charm my partial eyes,
 Full in my view set all the bright abode,
 And make my soul quit Abelard for God.

Ah think at least thy flock deserves thy care,
 Plants of thy hand, and children of thy pray'r. 130
 From the false world in early youth they fled,
 By thee to mountains, wilds, and deserts led.
 You rais'd these hallow'd walls; the desert smil'd,
 And Paradise was open'd in the Wild.
 No weeping orphan saw his father's stores 135
 Our shrines irradiate, or emblaze the floors;
 No silver saints, by dying misers giv'n,
 Here brib'd the rage of ill-requited heav'n:
 But such plain roofs as piety could raise,
 And only vocal with the Maker's praise. 140
 In these lone walls (their days eternal bound)
 These moss-grown domes with spiry turrets crown'd;

NOTES.

VER. 133. *You rais'd these hallow'd walls;*] He found-
 ed the Monastery. P.

ELOISA TO ABELARD. 31

Where awful arches make a noon-day night,
 And the dim windows shed a solemn light ;
 Thy eyes diffus'd a reconciling ray, 145
 And gleams of glory brighten'd all the day.
 But now no face divine contentment wears,
 'Tis all blank sadness, or continual tears.
 See how the force of others pray'rs I try,
 (O pious fraud of am'rous charity !) 150
 But why should I on others pray'rs depend ?
 Come thou, my father, brother, husband, friend !
 Ah let thy handmaid, sister, daughter move,
 And all those tender names in one, thy love !
 The darksome pines that o'er yon rocks reclin'd 155
 Wave high, and murmur to the hollow wind,
 The wand'ring streams that shine between the hills,
 The grotts that echo to the tinkling rills,
 The dying gales that pant upon the trees,
 The lakes that quiver to the curling breeze ; 160
 No more these scenes my meditation aid,
 Or lull to rest the visionary maid.
 But o'er the twilight groves and dusky caves,
 Long-sounding isles, and intermingled graves,
 Black Melancholy sits, and round her throws 165
 A death-like silence, and a dread repose :
 Her gloomy presence saddens all the scene,
 Shades ev'ry flow'r, and darkens ev'ry green,

32 ELOISA TO ABELARD

Deepens the murmur of the falling floods,
And breathes a browner horror on the woods. 170

Yet here for ever, ever must I stay;
Sad proof how well a lover can obey!
Death, only death, can break the lasting chain;
And here, ev'n then, shall my cold dust remain,
Here all its frailties, all its flames resign,
And wait till 'tis no sin to mix with thine. 175

Ah wretch! believ'd the spouse of God in vain,
Confess'd within the slave of love and man.
Assist me, heav'n! but whence arose that pray'r?
Sprung it from piety, or from despair?
Ev'n here, where frozen chastity retires,
Love finds an altar for forbidden fires.
I ought to grieve, but cannot what I ought;
I mourn the lover, not lament the fault;
I view my crime, but kindle at the view,
Repent old pleasures, and solicit new;
Now turn'd to heav'n, I weep my past offence,
Now think of thee, and curse my innocence.
Of all affliction taught a lover yet,
'Tis sure the hardest science to forget!
How shall I lose the sin, yet keep the sense,
And love th' offender, yet detest th' offence?
How the dear object from the crime remove,
Or how distinguish penitence from love? 185

ELOISA TO ABELARD. 33

Unequal task! a passion to resign, 195
 For hearts so touch'd, so pierc'd, so lost as mine,
 Ere such a soul regains its peaceful state,
 How often must it love, how often hate!
 How often hope, despair, resent, regret,
 Conceal, disdain,—do all things but forget. 200
 But let heav'n seize it, all at once 'tis fir'd;
 Not touch'd, but rapt; not waken'd, but inspir'd!
 Oh come! oh teach me nature to subdue,
 Renounce my love, my life, myself—and you.
 Fill my fond heart with God alone, for he 205
 Alone can rival, can succeed to thee.

How happy is the blameless Vestal's lot?
 The world forgetting, by the world forgot:
 Eternal sun-shine of the spotless mind!
 Each pray'r accepted, and each wish resign'd; 210
 Labour and rest, that equal periods keep;
 “Obedient slumbers that can wake and weep;”
 Desires compos'd, affections ever even;
 Tears that delight, and sighs that waft to heav'n.
 Grace shines around her with serenest beams, 215
 And whisp'ring Angels prompt her golden dreams.
 For her th' unfading rose of Eden blooms,
 And wings of Seraphs shed divine perfumes,

NOTES.

VER. 212. *Obedient slumbers, etc.*] Taken from Crashaw.
 P. VOL. II. C

34 ELOISA TO ABELARD.

For her the Spouse prepares the bridal ring,
 For her white virgins Hymeneals sing, 220
 To sounds of heav'nly harps she dies away,
 And melts in visions of eternal day.

Far other dreams my erring soul employ,
 Far other raptures, of unholy joy:
 When at the close of each sad, sorrowing day, 225
 Fancy restores what vengeance snatch'd away,
 Then conscience sleeps, and leaving nature free,
 All my loose soul unbounded springs to thee.
 Oh curst, dear horrors of all-conscious night!
 How glowing guilt exalts the keen delight! 230

Provoking Dæmons all restraint remove,
 And stir within me ev'ry source of love.
 I hear thee, view thee, gaze o'er all thy charms,
 And round thy phantom glue my clasping arms.
 I wake:—no more I hear, no more I view, 235
 The phantom flies me, as unkind as you.

I call aloud; it hears not what I say:
 I stretch my empty arms; it glides away.
 To dream once more I close my willing eyes;
 Ye soft illusions, dear deceits, arise! 240

Alas, no more! methinks we wand'ring go
 Thro' dreary wastes, and weep each other's woe,
 Where round some mould'ring tow'r pale ivy creeps,
 And low-brow'd rocks hang nodding o'er the deeps.

ELOISA TO ABELARD. 35

Sudden you mount, you beckon from the skies ; 245
 Clouds interpose, waves roar, and winds arise.
 I shriek, start up, the same sad prospect find,
 And wake to all the griefs I left behind.
 For thee the fates, severely kind, ordain
 A cool suspense from pleasure and from pain ; 250
 Thy life a long dead calm of fix'd repose ;
 No pulse that riots, and no blood that glows.
 Still as the sea, ere winds were taught to blow,
 Or moving spirit bade the waters flow ;
 Soft as the slumbers of a saint forgiv'n, 255
 And mild as op'ning gleams of promis'd heav'n.

Come, Abelard ! for what hast thou to dread ?
 The torch of Venus burns not for the dead.
 Nature stands check'd ; Religion disapproves ;
 Ev'n thou art cold—yet Eloïsa loves. 260
 Ah hopeless, lasting flames ; like those that burn
 To light the dead, and warm th' unfruitful urn.

What scenes appear where'er I turn my view ?
 The dear Ideas, where I fly, pursue,
 Rise in the grove, before the altar rise, 265
 Stain all my soul, and wanton in my eyes.
 I waste the Matin lamp in sighs for thee,
 Thy image steals between my God and me,
 Thy voice I seem in ev'ry hymn to hear,
 With ev'ry bead I drop too soft a tear. 270

36 ELOISA TO ABELARD.

When from the censer clouds of fragrance roll,
And swelling organs lift the rising soul,
One thought of thee puts all the pomp to flight,
Priests, tapers, temples, swim before my sight:
In seas of flame my plunging soul is drown'd, 275
While Altars blaze, and Angels tremble round.

While prostrate here in humble grief I lie,
Kind, virtuous drops just gath'ring in my eye,
While praying, trembling, in the dust I roll,
And dawning grace is op'ning on my soul: 280
Come, if thou dar'st, all charming as thou art!
Oppose thyself to heav'n; dispute my heart;
Come, with one glance of those deluding eyes
Blot out each bright Idea of the skies;
Take back that grace, those sorrows, and those tears;
Take back my fruitless penitence and pray'rs; 286
Snatch me, just mounting, from the blest abode;
Assist the fiends, and tear me from my God!

No, fly me, fly me, far as Pole from Pole;
Rise Alps between us! and whole oceans roll! 290
Ah, come not, write not, think not once of me,
Nor share one pang of all I felt for thee.
Thy oaths I quit; thy memory resign;
Forget, renounce me, hate whate'er was mine.
Fair eyes, and tempting looks (which yet I view!)
Long lov'd, ador'd ideas, all adieu! 296

ELOISA TO ABELARD. 37

Oh Grace serene ! oh virtue heav'nly fair !
 Divine oblivion of low-thoughted care !
 Fresh blooming hope, gay daughter of the sky !
 And Faith, our early immortality ! 300
 Enter, each mild, each amicable guest ;
 Receive, and wrap me, in eternal rest !
 See in her cell sad Eloisa spread,
 Prompt on some tomb, a neighbour of the dead.
 In each low wind methinks a Spirit calls, 305
 And more than Echoes talk along the walls.
 Here, as I watch'd the dying lamps around,
 From yonder shrine I heard a hollow sound.
 "Come, sister, come ! (it said, or seem'd to say)
 "Thy place is here, sad sister, come away ! 310
 "Once like thyself, I trembled, wept, and pray'd,
 "Love's victim then, tho' now a fainted maid :
 "But all is calm in this eternal sleep ;
 "Here grief forgets to groan, and love to weep,
 "Ev'n superstition loses every fear : 315
 "For God, not man, absolves our frailties here.
 I come, I come ! prepare your roseate bow'rs,
 Celestial palms, and ever-blooming flow'rs.
 Thither, where sinners may have rest, I go,
 Where flames refin'd in breasts seraphic glow : 320
 Thou, Abelard ! the last sad office pay,
 And smooth my passage to the realms of day ;

38 ELOISA TO ABELARD.

See my lips tremble, and my eye-balls roll,
 Suck my last breath, and catch my flying soul!
 Ah no—in sacred vestments may'st thou stand, 325
 The hallow'd taper trembling in thy hand,
 Present the Cross before my lifted eye,
 Teach me at once, and learn of me to die.
 Ah then, thy once-lov'd Eloïsa see!
 It will be then no crime to gaze on me, 330
 See from my cheek the transient roses fly!
 See the last sparkle languish in my eye!
 'Till every motion, pulse, and breath be o'er;
 And ev'n my Abelard be lov'd no more.
 Oh Death all-eloquent! you only prove 335
 What dust we doat on, when 'tis man we love.
 Then too, when fate shall thy fair frame destroy,
 (That cause of all my guilt, and all my joy)
 In trance extatic may thy pangs be drown'd;
 Bright clouds descend, and Angels watch thee round;
 From op'ning skies may streaming glories shine, 341
 And Saints embrace thee with a love-like mine.
 May one kind grave unite each hapless name,
 And graft my love immortal on thy fame!

NOTES.

VER. 343. *May one kind grave, etc.* Abelard and Eloïsa
 were interred in the same grave, or in monuments adjoin-
 ing, in the Monastery of the Paraclete: he died in the
 year 1142, she in 1163. P.

ELOISA TO ABELARD. 39

Then, ages hence, when all my woes are o'er, 345
 When this rebellious heart shall beat no more ;
 If ever chance two wand'ring lovers brings
 To Paraclete's white walls and silver springs,
 O'er the pale marble shall they join their heads,
 And drink the falling tears each other sheds ; 350
 Then sadly say, with mutual pity mov'd,
 " Oh may we never love as these have lov'd !"
 From the full choir when loud Hosannas rise,
 And swell the pomp of dreadful sacrifice,
 Amid that scene if some relenting eye 355
 Glance on the stone where our cold relicks lie,
 Devotion's self shall steal a thought from heav'n,
 One human tear shall drop, and be forgiv'n.
 And sure if fate some future bard shall join
 In sad similitude of griefs to mine, 360
 Condemn'd whole years in absence to deplore,
 And image charms he must behold no more ;
 Such if there be, who loves so long, so well ;
 Let him our sad, our tender story tell ;
 The well-sung woes will sooth my pensive ghost ; 365
 He best can paint 'em who shall feel 'em most.

ELIZABETH TO ABBEY

Then, eyes closed, when all my work is done
 When the rebellious heart has beat no more
 It goes to rest, two wandering lovers joined
 The peaceful, quiet walls and floor
 O'er the pale moon, softly in their heads
 And still the heart, your gentle hand
 Then, softly, with a gentle sigh
 "Oh, how we are changed, since first we met
 From the first, when we first met
 And still the heart, your gentle hand
 And still the heart, your gentle hand
 Glance on the face, your gentle hand
 Elizabeth's soft, your gentle hand
 One heart, one hand, your gentle hand
 And still the heart, your gentle hand
 In the heart, your gentle hand
 Conscience's voice, your gentle hand
 And still the heart, your gentle hand
 Soft, softly, your gentle hand
 Let me see, your gentle hand
 The well-forgotten words, your gentle hand
 He has the heart, your gentle hand

ADVERTISEMENT

THE following Translations were selected from many
early Bards to show to posterity their taste in Verse and
improving themselves in the Language, and carried by the
Prose. Mr. Dyer's Poem, which occurred the Translation from
which occurred the Translation from the Poem, they
were first originally printed in the Poem, by J. London
and B. London, and afterwards published in the Poem
which are added at the end, were done by Mr. Dyer, some of
them in London in fifteen years old, but having all the
same skill, and we have put them here together to com-
pare this Juvenile Volume. P.

TRANSLATIONS

AND

IMITATIONS.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following Translations were selected from many others done by the Author in his Youth; for the most part indeed but a sort of *Exercises*, while he was improving himself in the Languages, and carried by his early Bent to *Poetry* to perform them rather in Verse than Prose. Mr. *Dryden's Fables* came out about that time, which occasioned the Translations from *Chaucer*. They were first separately printed in Miscellanies by J. Tonson and B. Lintot, and afterwards collected in the Quarto Edition of 1717. The *Imitations of English Authors*, which are added at the end, were done as early, some of them at fourteen or fifteen years old; but having also got into Miscellanies, we have put them here together to complete this Juvenile Volume. P.

ADVERTISEMENT
THE
TEMPLE
OF
FAME.

Written in the Year MDCCXI.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE hint of the following piece was taken from Chaucer's *House of Fame*. The design is in a manner entirely altered, the descriptions and most of the particular thoughts my own: yet I could not suffer it to be printed without this acknowledgment. The reader who would compare this with Chaucer, may begin with his third Book of *Fame*, there being nothing in the two first books that answers to their title: wherever any hint is taken from him, the passage itself is set down in the marginal notes. P.

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*Millions of Suppliant Crowds the Shrine attend,
And all degrees before the Goddess bend.
The Poor, the Rich, the Valiant, and the Sage,
And boasting Youth, & narrative Old Age.*

Temple of Fame.

THE (45) THE
THE
T E M P L E
O F
F A M E .

IN that soft season, when descending show'rs
 Call forth the greens, and wake the rising flow'rs;
 When op'ning buds salute the welcome day,
 And earth relenting feels the genial ray;
 As balmy sleep had charm'd my cares to rest, 5
 And love itself was banish'd from my breast,
 (What time the morn mysterious visions brings,
 While purer slumbers spread their golden wings)
 A train of phantoms in wild order rose,
 And join'd, this intellectual scene compose. 10

NOTES.

VER. 1. *In that soft season, etc.*] This Poem is introduced in the manner of the Provencial Poets, whose works were for the most part Visions, or pieces of imagination, and constantly descriptive. From these, Petrarch and Chaucer frequently borrow the idea of their poems. See the *Trionfi* of the former, and the *Dream, Flower and the Leaf*, etc. of the latter. The Author of this therefore chose the same sort of Exordium. P.

I stood, methought, betwixt earth, seas, and skies ;
 The whole creation open to my eyes :
 In air self-balanc'd hung the globe below,
 Where mountains rise and circling oceans flow ;
 Here naked rocks, and empty wastes were seen, 15
 There tow'ry cities, and the forests green :
 Here sailing ships delight the wand'ring eyes ;
 There trees, and intermingled temples rise :
 Now a clear sun the shining scene displays,
 The transient landscape now in clouds decays. 20
 O'er the wide Prospect as I gaz'd around,
 Sudden I heard a wild promiscuous sound,
 Like broken thunders that at distance roar,
 Or billows murmur'ing on the hollow shore :
 Then gazing up, a glorious pile beheld, 25
 Whose tow'ring summit ambient clouds conceal'd.
 High on a rock of Ice the structure lay,
 Steep it's ascent, and slipp'ry was the way ;

IMITATIONS.

VER. 11. etc.] These verses are hinted from the following of Chaucer, Book ii.

Tho' beheld I fields and plains,
 Now hills, and now mountains,
 Now valeis, and now forestes,
 And now unneth great bestes,
 Now rivers, now citees,
 Now towns, now great trees,
 Now shippes sayling in the sees. P.

Ver. 27. *High on a rock of Ice; etc.*] Chaucer's third book of *Fame*.

It stood upon so high a rock,
 Higher standeth none in Spayne—

The wondrous rock like Parian marble shone,
 And seem'd, to distant sight, of solid stone. 30
 Inscriptions here of various names I view'd,
 The greater part by hostile time subdu'd;
 Yet wide was spread their fame in ages past,
 And Poets once had promis'd they should last.
 Some fresh engrav'd appear'd of Wits renown'd; 35
 I look'd again, nor could their trace be found.
 Critics I saw, that other names deface,
 And fix their own, with labour, in their place:
 Their own, like others, soon their place resign'd,
 Or disappear'd, and left the first behind. 40

IMITATIONS.

What manner stone this rock was,
 For it was like a lymed glass,
 But that it shone full more clere;
 But of what congeled matere
 It was, I niste redily;
 But at the last espied I,
 And found that it was every dele,
 A rock of ise and not of stele.
 VER. 31. *Inscriptions here, etc.*
 Tho' saw I all the hill y-grave
 With famous folkes names sele,
 That had been in much wele
 And her fames wide y-blow;
 But well unneth might I know
 Any letters for to rede
 Their names by, for out of drede
 They weren almost off-thawen so,
 That of the letters one or two
 Were molte away of every name,
 So unfamous was woxe her fame;
 But men said, what may ever last. P.

Nor was the work impair'd by storms alone,
 But felt th' approaches of too warm a sun;
 For Fame, impatient of extremes, decays
 Not more by Envy than excess of Praise.
 Yet part no injuries of heav'n could feel, 45
 Like crystal faithful to the graving steel:
 The rock's high summit, in the temple's shade,
 Nor heat could melt, nor beating storm invade.
 Their names inscrib'd unnumber'd ages past
 From time's first birth, with time itself shall last; 50
 These ever new, nor subject to decays,
 Spread, and grow brighter with the length of days.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 41. *Nor was the work impair'd, etc.]*

Tho gan I in myne harte cast,
 That they were molte away for heate,
 And not away with stormes beate.

VER. 45. *Yet part no injuries, etc.]*

For on that other side I sey
 Of that hill which northward ley,
 How it was written full of names
 Of folke, that had afore great fames,
 Of old time, and yet they were
 As fresh as men had written hem there
 The self day, or that houre
 That I on hem gan to poure
 But well I wiste what it made;
 It was conserved with the shade
 (All the writing that I sye)
 Of the castle that stode on high,
 And stood eke in so cold a place,
 That heate might it not deface. P.

So Zembla's rocks (the beauteous work of frost)
 Rise white in air, and glitter o'er the coast;
 Pale suns, unfelt, at distance roll away, 55
 And on th' impassive ice the lightnings play;
 Eternal snows the growing mass supply,
 Till the bright mountains prop th' incumbent sky:
 As Atlas fix'd, each hoary pile appears,
 The gather'd winter of a thousand years. 60
 On this foundation Fame's high temple stands;
 Stupendous pile! not rear'd by mortal hands.
 Whate'er proud Rome or artful Greece beheld,
 Or elder Babylon, its frame excell'd.
 Four faces had the dome, and ev'ry face 65
 Of various structure, but of equal grace:
 Four brazen gates, on columns lifted high,
 Salute the diff'rent quarters of the sky.
 Here fabled Chiefs in darker ages born,
 Or Worthies old, whom arms or arts adorn, 70
 Who cities rais'd, or tam'd a monstrous race;
 The walls in venerable order grace.

NOTES.

VER. 65. *Four faces had the dome, etc.*] The Temple is described to be square, the four fronts with open gates facing the different quarters of the world, as an intimation that all nations of the earth may alike be received into it. The western front is of Grecian architecture: the Doric order was peculiarly sacred to Heroes and Worthies. Those whose statues are after mentioned, were the first names of old Greece in arms and arts. P.

Heroes in animated marble frown,
And Legislators seem to think in stone.

Westward, a sumptuous frontispiece appear'd, 75
On Doric pillars of white marble rear'd,
Crown'd with an architrave of antique mold,
And sculpture rising on the roughen'd gold.
In shaggy spoils here Theseus was beheld,
And Perseus dreadful with Minerva's shield: 80

There great Alcides stooping with his toil,
Rests on his club, and holds th' Hesperian spoil.
Here Orpheus sings; trees moving to the sound
Start from their roots, and form a shade around:
Amphion there the loud creating lyre 85
Strikes, and beholds a sudden Thebes aspire!

Cithæron's echoes answer to his call,
And half the mountain rolls into a wall:
There might you see the length'ning spires ascend,
The domes swell up, the wid'ning arches bend, 90
The growing tow'rs, like exhalations rise,
And the huge columns heave into the skies.

The Eastern front was glorious to behold,
With di'mond flaming, and Barbaric gold.

NOTES.

VER. 81. *There great Alcides, etc.*] This figure of Hercules is drawn with an eye to the position of the famous statue of Farnese, P.

There Ninus shone, who spread th' Assyrian fame, 95
 And the great founder of the Persian name :
 There in long robes the royal Magi stand,
 Grave Zoroaster waves the circling wand,
 The sage Chaldæans rob'd in white appear'd,
 And Brachmans, deep in desert woods rever'd. 100
 These stop'd the moon, and call'd th' unbody'd shades
 To midnight banquets in the glimm'ring glades ;
 Made visionary fabricks round them rise,
 And airy spectres skim before their eyes ;
 Of Talismans and Sigils knew the pow'r, 105
 And careful watch'd the Planetary hour.
 Superior, and alone, Confucius stood,
 Who taught that useful science, to be good.

But on the South, a long majestic race
 Of Ægypt's Priests the gilded niches grace, 110
 Who measur'd earth, describ'd the starry spheres,
 And trac'd the long records of lunar years.

NOTES.

VER. 96. *And the great founder of the Persian name:]*
 Cyrus was the beginning of the Persian, as Ninus was of
 the Assyrian Monarchy. The Magi and Chaldæans (the
 chief of whom was Zoroaster) employed their studies upon
 magic and astrology, which was in a manner almost all the
 learning of the ancient Asian people. We have scarce any
 account of a moral philosopher except Confucius, the great
 law-giver of the Chinese, who lived about two thousand
 years ago. P.

VER. 110. *Ægypt's priests, etc.]* The learning of the old
 Ægyptian Priests consisted for the most part in geometry

High on his car Sesostris struck my view,
 Whom scepter'd slaves in golden harness drew:
 His hands a bow and pointed jav'lin hold; 115
 His giant limbs are arm'd in scales of gold.
 Between the statues Obelisks were plac'd,
 And the learn'd walls with Hieroglyphics grac'd.
 Of Gothic structure was the Northern side,
 O'erwrought with ornaments of barb'rous pride. 120
 There huge Colosses rose, with trophies crown'd,
 And Runic characters were grav'd around.
 There sate Zamolxis with erected eyes,
 And Odin here in mimic trances dies.
 There on rude iron columns, smear'd with blood, 125
 The horrid forms of Scythian heroes stood,

NOTES.

and astronomy: they also preserved the History of their nation. Their greatest Hero upon record is Sesostris, whose actions and conquests may be seen at large in Diodorus, etc. He is said to have caused the Kings he vanquished to draw him in his Chariot. The posture of his statue, in these verses, is correspondent to the description which Herodotus gives of one of them remaining in his own time. P.

VER. 119. *Of Gothic structure was the Northern side,*] The Architecture is agreeable to that part of the world. The learning of the northern nations lay more obscure than that of the rest; Zamolxis was the disciple of Pythagoras, who taught the immortality of the soul to the Scythians. Odin, or Woden, was the great legislator and hero of the Goths. They tell us of him, that, being subject to fits, he persuaded his followers, that during those trances he received inspirations, from whence he dictated his laws: he is said to have been the inventor of the Runic characters. P.

Druids and Bards (their once loud harps unstrung)
 And youths that dy'd to be by Poets sung.
 These and a thousand more of doubtful fame,
 To whom old fables gave a lasting name, 130
 In ranks adorn'd the Temple's outward face;
 The wall in lustre and effect like glass,
 Which o'er each object casting various dyes,
 Enlarges some, and others multiplies:
 Nor void of emblem was the mystic wall, 135
 For thus romantic Fame increases all.

The Temple shakes, the sounding gates unfold,
 Wide vaults appear, and roofs of fretted gold:
 Rais'd on a thousand pillars, wreath'd around
 With laurel-foliage, and with eagles crown'd: 140
 Of bright, transparent beryl were the walls,
 The freezes gold, and gold the capitals:
 As heav'n with stars, the roof with jewels glows,
 And ever-living lamps depend in rows.

NOTES.

VER. 127. *Druids and Bards, etc.*] These were the priests
 and poets of those people, so celebrated for their savage
 virtue. Those heroic barbarians accounted it a dishonour
 to die in their beds, and rushed on to certain death in the
 prospect of an after-life, and for the glory of a song from
 their bards in praise of their actions. P.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 132. *The wall in lustre, etc.*]

It shone lighter than a glass,
 And made well more than it was,
 As kind of thing Fame is,

Full in the passage of each spacious gate, 145
 The sage Historians in white garments wait;
 Grav'd o'er their seats the form of Time was found,
 His scythe revers'd, and both his pinions bound.
 Within stood Heroes, who thro' loud alarms
 In bloody fields pursu'd renown in arms. 150
 High on a throne with trophies charg'd, I view'd
 The Youth that all things but himself subdu'd;
 His feet on sceptres and tiara's trod,
 And his horn'd head bely'd the Libyan God.
 There Cæsar, grac'd with both Minerva's, shone; 155
 Cæsar, the world's great master, and his own;
 Unmov'd, superior still in ev'ry state,
 And scarce detested in his Country's fate.
 But chief were those, who not for empire fought,
 But with their toils their people's safety bought: 160
 High o'er the rest Epaminondas stood;
 Timoleon, glorious in his brother's blood;

NOTES.

VER. 152. *The Youth that all things but himself subdu'd;*]
 Alexander the Great: the Tiara was the crown peculiar to
 the Asian Princes: his desire to be thought the son of Ju-
 piter Ammon, caused him to wear the horns of that God,
 and to represent the same upon his coins; which was con-
 tinued by several of his successors. P.

VER. 162. *Timoleon, glorious in his brother's blood;*]
 Timoleon had saved the life of his brother Timophanes in
 the battle between the Argives and Corinthians; but after-
 wards killed him when he affected the tyranny, preferring
 his duty to his country to all the obligations of blood. P.

Bold Scipio, saviour of the Roman state;
 Great in his triumphs, in retirement great;
 And wise Aurelius, in whose well-taught mind 165
 With boundless pow'r unbounded virtue join'd,
 His own strict judge, and patron of mankind. }

Much-suffering heroes next their honours claim,
 Those of less noisy, and less guilty fame,
 Fair Virtue's silent train: supreme of these 170
 Here ever shines the godlike Socrates:
 He whom ungrateful Athens could expell,
 At all times just, but when he sign'd the Shell:
 Here his abode the martyr'd Phocion claims,
 With Agis, not the last of Spartan names: 175
 Unconquer'd Cato shews the wound he tore,
 And Brutus his ill Genius meets no more.

NOTES.

VER. 172. *He whom ungrateful Athens, etc.*] Aristides, who for his great integrity was distinguished by the appellation of *the Just*. When his countrymen would have banished him by the Ostracism, where it was the custom for every man to sign the name of the person he voted to exile in an Oyster-shell; a peasant, who could not write, came to Aristides to do it for him, who readily signed his own name. P.

VER. 178. *But in the centre of the hallow'd choir, etc.*] In the midst of the temple, nearest the throne of Fame, are placed the greatest names in learning of all antiquity. These are described in such attitudes as express their different characters: the columns on which they are raised are adorned with sculptures, taken from the most striking subjects of their works; which sculpture bears a resemblance, in its manner and character, to the manner and character of their writings. P.

But in the centre of the hallow'd choir,
 Six pompous columns o'er the rest aspire ;
 Around the shrine itself of Fame they stand, 180
 Hold the chief honours, and the fane command.
 High on the first, the mighty Homer shone ;
 Eternal adamant compos'd his throne ;
 Father of verse ! in holy fillets drest,
 His silver beard wav'd gently o'er his breast ; 185
 Tho' blind, a boldness in his looks appears ;
 In years he seem'd, but not impair'd by years.
 The wars of Troy were round the Pillar seen :
 Here fierce Tydides wounds the Cyprian Queen ;
 Here Hector glorious from Patroclus' fall, 190
 Here dragg'd in triumph round the Trojan wall :
 Motion and life did ev'ry part inspire,
 Bold was the work, and prov'd the master's fire ;

IMITATIONS.

VER. 179. *Six pompous columns, etc.*

From the dees many a pillere,
 Of metal that shone not full clere, etc.
 Upon a pillere saw I stonde
 That was of lede and iron fine,
 Him of the sect Saturnine,
 The Ebraicke Josephus the old, etc.

Upon an iron piller strong,
 That painted was all endlong,
 With tigers' blood in every place,
 The Tholosan that hight Stace,
 That bare of Thebes up the name, etc. P.

VER. 182.]

Full wonder hye on a pillere
 Of iron, he the great Omer,
 And with him Dares and Titus, etc. P.

A strong expression most he seem'd t' affect,
And here and there disclos'd a brave neglect. 195

A golden column next in rank appear'd,
On which a shrine of purest gold was rear'd ;
Finish'd the whole, and labour'd ev'ry part,
With patient touches of unweary'd art :
The Mantuan there in sober triumph sate, 200
Compos'd his posture, and his look sedate ;
On Homer still he fix'd a rev'rend eye,
Great without pride, in modest majesty.
In living sculpture on the sides were spread
The Latian Wars, and haughty Turnus dead ; 205

IMITATIONS.

VER, 196, etc.]

There saw I stand on a pillere
That was of tinned iron cleere,
The Latin Poet Virgyle,
That hath bore up of a great while
The fame of pious Æneas.

And next him on a pillere was
Of copper, Venus' clerk Ovide,
That hath sown wondrous wide
The great God of Love's fame—

Tho saw I on a pillere by
Of iron wrought full sternly,
The great Poet Dan Lucan,
That on his shoulders bore up then
As hye as that I might see,
The fame of Julius and Pompee.

And next him on a pillere stode
Of sulphur, like as he were wode,
Dan Claudian, sothe for to tell,
That bare up all the fame of hell, etc. P.

Eliza stretch'd upon the fun'ral pyre,
 Æneas bending with his aged fire:

Troy flam'd in burning gold, and o'er the throne
 ARMS AND THE MAN in golden cyphers shone.

Four swans sustain a car of silver bright, 210
 With heads advanc'd, and pinions stretch'd for flight:
 Here, like some furious prophet, Pindar rode,
 And seem'd to labour with th' inspiring God.

Across the harp a careless hand he flings,
 And boldly sinks into the sounding strings. 215

The figur'd games of Greece the column grace,
 Neptune and Jove survey the rapid race.

The youths hang o'er their chariots as they run;
 The fiery steeds seem starting from the stone;
 The champions in distorted postures threat; 220
 And all appear'd irregularly great.

Here happy Horace tun'd th' Ausonian lyre
 To sweeter sounds, and temper'd Pindar's fire:
 Pleas'd with Alcæus' manly rage t' infuse
 The softer spirit of the Sapphic Muse. 225

NOTES.

VER. 210. *Four swans sustain, etc.*] Pindar being seated in a chariot, alludes to the chariot-races he celebrated in the Grecian games. The swans are emblems of Poetry, their soaring posture intimates the sublimity and activity of his genius. Neptune presided over the Isthmian, and Jupiter over the Olympian games.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 224. *Pleas'd with Alcæus' manly rage t' infuse
 The softer spirit of the Sapphic Muse.*] This expresses the

The polish'd pillar diff'rent sculptures grace;
 A work outlasting monumental brass.
 Here smiling Loves and Bacchanals appear,
 The Julian star, and great Augustus here.
 The Doves that round the infant poet spread 230
 Myrtles and bays, hung hov'ring o'er his head.

Here in a shrine that cast a dazzling light,
 Sate fix'd in thought the mighty Stagirite;
 His sacred head a radiant Zodiac crown'd,
 And various Animals his sides surround; 235

I M I T A T I O N S.

mix'd character of the odes of Horace: the second of these verses alludes to that line of his,

Spiritus Graiæ tenuem camœnæ.

As another which follows, to

Exegi monumentum ære perennius.

The action of the Doves hints at a passage in the fourth ode of his third book.

Me fabulosæ Vulture in Appulo

Altrici's extra limen Apuliæ,

Ludo fatigatumque somno,

Fronde nova puerum palumbes

Texere; mirum quod foret omnibus —

Ut tuto ab atris corpore viperis

Dormirem et urfis; ut premerer sacra

Lauroque collataque myrto,

Non sine Diis animosus infans.

Which may be thus englished;

While yet a child, I chanc'd to stray,

And in a desert sleeping lay;

The savage race withdrew, nor dar'd

To touch the Muses' future bard;

But Cytherea's gentle dove

Myrtles and Bays around me spread,

And crown'd your infant Poet's head,

Sacred to Music and to Love. P.

His piercing eyes, erect, appear to view
Superior worlds, and look all Nature through.

With equal rays immortal Tully shone,
The Roman Rostra deck'd the Consul's throne :
Gath'ring his flowing robe, he seem'd to stand 240
In act to speak, and graceful stretch'd his hand.
Behind, Rome's Genius waits with Civic crowns,
And the great Father of his country owns.

These massy columns in a circle rise,
O'er which a pompous dome invades the skies : 245
Scarce to the top I stretch'd my aking sight,
So large it spread, and swell'd to such a height.
Full in the midst proud Fame's imperial seat
With jewels blaz'd, magnificently great ;
The vivid em'ralsds there revive the eye, 250
The flaming rubies shew their sanguine dye,
Bright azure rays from lively sapphires stream,
And lucid amber casts a golden gleam.
With various-colour'd light the pavement shone,
And all on fire appear'd the glowing throne ; 255
The dome's high arch reflects the mingled blaze,
And forms a rainbow of alternate rays.
When on the Goddess first I cast my sight,
Scarce seem'd her stature of a cubit's height ;

IMITATIONS.

VER. 259. *Scarce seem'd her stature, etc.*]

Methought that she was so lite,
That the length of a cubite
Was longer than she seem'd be ;
But thus soone in a while she,

But swell'd to larger size, the more I gaz'd, 260
 Till to the roof her tow'ring front she rais'd.
 With her, the Temple ev'ry moment grew,
 And ampler Vista's open'd to my view:
 Upward the columns shoot, the roofs ascend,
 And arches widen, and long ile's extend. 265
 Such was her form as ancient bards have told,
 Wings raise her arms, and wings her feet infold;
 A thousand busy tongues the Goddess bears,
 And thousand open eyes, and thousand list'ning ears.
 Beneath, in order rang'd, the tuneful Nine 270
 (Her virgin handmaids) still attend the shrine:
 With eyes on Fame for ever fix'd, they sing;
 For Fame they raise the voice, and tune the string;
 With time's first birth began the heav'nly lays,
 And last, eternal, thro' the length of days. 275
 Around these wonders as I cast a look,
 The trumpet sounded, and the temple shook,

I M I T A T I O N S.

Her self tho wonderly straight,
 That with her feet she the earth reight,
 And with her head she touch'd heaven.—P.
 VER. 270. *Beneath, in order rang'd, etc.*
 I heard about her throne y-sung
 That all the palays walls rung
 So sung the mighty Muse, she
 That cleped is Calliope,
 And her seven sisters eke —P.
 VER. 276. *Around these wonders, etc.*
 I heard a noise approchen blive,
 That far'd as bees done in a hive,

And all the nations, summon'd at the call,
 From diff'rent quarters fill the crouded hall: 279
 Of various tongues the mingled sounds were heard;
 In various garbs promiscuous throngs appear'd;
 Thick as the bees, that with the spring renew
 Their flow'ry toils, and sip the fragrant dew,
 When the wing'd colonies first tempt the sky,
 O'er dusky fields and shaded waters fly, 285
 Or settling, seize the sweets the blossoms yield,
 And a low murmur runs along the field.
 Millions of suppliant crouds the shrine attend,
 And all degrees before the Goddess bend;
 The poor, the rich, the valiant, and the sage, 290
 And boasting youth, and narrative old-age.
 Their pleas were diff'rent, their request the same:
 For good and bad alike are fond of Fame.
 Some she disgrac'd, and some with honours crown'd;
 Unlike successes equal merits found. 295

IMITATIONS.

Against her time of out flying;
 Right such a manere murmuring,
 For all the world it seemed me.
 Tho'gan I look about and see
 That there came entring into th' hall,
 A right great company withal;
 And that of fundry regions,
 Of all kind of conditions, etc. — P.

VER. 294. *Some she disgrac'd, etc.*]

And some of them she granted sone,

Thus her blind sister, fickle Fortune, reigns,
And, undiscerning, scatters crowns and chains.

First at the shrine the Learned world appear,
And to the Goddess thus prefer their pray'r. 299
Long have we sought t' instruct and please mankind,
With studies pale, with midnight vigils blind;
But thank'd by few, rewarded yet by none,
We here appeal to thy superior throne:
On wit and learning the just prize bestow,
For Fame is all we must expect below. 305

The Goddess heard, and bade the Muses raise
The golden Trumpet of eternal Praise:
From pole to pole the winds diffuse the sound,
That fills the circuit of the world around;
Not all at once, as thunder breaks the cloud; 310
The notes at first were rather sweet than loud:
By just degrees they ev'ry moment rise,
Fill the wide earth, and gain upon the skies.
At ev'ry breath were balmy odours shed,
Which still grew sweeter as they wider spread; 315
Less fragrant scents th' unfolding rose exhales,
Or spices breathing in Arabian gales.

I M I T A T I O N S.

And some she warn'd well and fair,
And some she granted the contrair—
Right as her sister dame Fortune
Is wont to serve in commune. P.

Next these the good and just, an awful train,
 Thus on their knees address the sacred fane.
 Since living virtue is with envy curs'd, 320
 And the best men are treated like the worst,
 Do thou, just Goddess, call our merits forth,
 And give each deed th' exact intrinsic worth.
 Not with bare justice shall your act be crown'd
 (Said Fame) but high above desert renown'd: 325
 Let fuller notes th' applauding world amaze,
 And the loud clarion labour in your praise.
 This band dismiss'd, behold another croud
 Prefer'd the same request, and lowly bow'd;

IMITATIONS.

VER. 318. *the good and just, etc.*]

Tho came the third companye,
 And gan up to the dees to hye,
 And down on knees they fell anone,
 And saiden: We been everichone
 Folke that han full truely
 Deserved Fame right-fully,
 And prayen you it might be knowe
 Right as it is, and forth blowe.

I grant, quoth she, for now we list
 That your good works shall be wist.
 And yet ye shall have better loos,
 Right in despite of all your foos,
 Than worthy is, and that anone.
 Let now (quoth she) thy trump gone—
 And certes all the breath that went
 Out of his trump's mouth smel'd
 As men a pot of baume held
 Among a basket full of roses—P.

The constant tenour of whose well-spent days 330
 No less deserv'd a just return of praise.
 But strait the direful Trump of slander sounds;
 Thro' the big dome the doubling thunder bounds;
 Loud as the burst of cannon rends the skies,
 The dire report thro' ev'ry region flies, 335
 In ev'ry ear incessant rumours rung,
 And gath'ring scandals grew on ev'ry tongue.
 From the black trumpet's rusty concave broke
 Sulphureous flames, and clouds of rolling smoke:
 The pois'nous vapour blots the purple skies, 340
 And withers all before it as it flies.

A troop came next, who crowns and armour wore,
 And proud defiance in their looks they bore:

IMITATIONS.

VER. 328, 338. *behold another croud, etc.—From the black trumpet's rusty, etc.]*

Therewithal there came anone
 Another huge companye,
 Of good folke—
 What did this Eolus, but he
 Tooke out his trump of brass,
 That fouler than the devil was:
 And gan this trump for to blowe,
 As all the world should overthrowe.
 Throughout every regione
 Went this foul trumpet's sounne,
 Swift as a pellet out of a gunne,
 When fire is in the powder runne.
 And such a smoke gan out wende,
 Out of the foul trumpet's ende—etc.

For thee (they cry'd) amidst alarms and strife,
 We sail'd in tempests down the stream of life ; 345
 For thee whole nations fill'd with flames and blood,
 And swam to empire thro' the purple flood.
 Those ills we dar'd, thy inspiration own,
 What virtue seem'd, was done for thee alone.
 Ambitious fools ! (the Queen reply'd, and frown'd)
 Be all your acts in dark oblivion drown'd ;
 There sleep forgot, with mighty tyrants gone,
 Your statues moulder'd, and your names unknown !
 A sudden cloud straight snatch'd them from my sight,
 And each majestic phantom sunk in night. 355
 Then came the smallest tribe I yet had seen ;
 Plain was their dress, and modest was their mien.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 356. *Then came the smallest, etc.]*

I saw anone the fifth route,
 That to this lady gan loute,
 And down on knees anone to fall,
 And to her they besoughten all,
 To hiden their good works eke.
 And said, they yeve not a leke
 For no fame ne such renowne ;
 For they for contemplacyoune,
 And Goddes love had it wrought,
 Ne of fame would they ought.

What, quoth she, and be ye wood ?
 And ween ye for to do good,
 And for to have it of no fame ?
 Have ye despite to have my name ?
 Nay ye shall lien everichone :
 Blowe thy trump, and that anone
 (Quoth she) thou Eolus, I hote,
 And ring these folkes workes by rote.

Great idol of mankind! we neither claim
 The praise of merit, nor aspire to fame!
 But safe in deserts from th' applause of men, 360
 Would die unheard of, as we liv'd unseen,
 'Tis all we beg thee, to conceal from sight
 Those acts of goodness, which themselves requite.
 O let us still the secret joy partake,
 To follow virtue ev'n for virtue's sake. 365

And live there men, who slight immortal fame?
 Who then with incense shall adore our name?
 But, mortals! know, 'tis still our greatest pride
 To blaze those virtues, which the good would hide.
 Rise! Muses, rise! add all your tuneful breath, 370
 These must not sleep in darkness and in death.
 She said: in air the trembling music floats,
 And on the winds triumphant swell the notes;
 So soft, tho' high, so loud, and yet so clear,
 Ev'n list'ning Angels lean'd from heav'n to hear: 375
 To farthest shores th' Ambrosial spirit flies,
 Sweet to the world, and grateful to the skies.

Next these a youthful train their vows express'd,
 With feathers crown'd, with gay embroid'ry dress'd:

IMITATIONS.

That all the world may of it heare;
 And he can blow their loofs so cleare,
 In his golden clarioune,
 Through the World went the sounne,
 All so kindly, and eke so soft,
 That their fame was blown aloft. P.

VER. 378. *Next these a youthful train, etc.*] The Reader

Hither, they cry'd, direct your eyes, and see 380

The men of pleasure, dress, and gallantry ;

Ours is the place at banquets, balls, and plays,

Sprightly our nights, polite are all our days ;

Courts we frequent, where 'tis our pleasing care

To pay due visits, and address the fair : 385

In fact, 'tis true, no nymph we could persuade,

But still in fancy vanquish'd ev'ry maid ;

Of unknown Duchesses leud tales we tell,

Yet, would the world believe us, all were well.

The joy let others have, and we the name 390

And what we want in pleasure grant in fame.

The Queen assents, the trumpet rends the skies,

And at each blast a Lady's honour dies.

Pleas'd with the strange success, vast numbers preft

Around the shrine, and made the same request : 395

What you (she cry'd) unlearn'd in arts to please,

Slaves to yourselves, and ev'n fatigu'd with ease,

Who lose a length of undeserving days,

Would you usurp the lover's dear-bought praise ?

To just contempt, ye vain pretenders, fall, 400

The people's fable, and the scorn of all.

IMITATIONS.

might compare these twenty-eight lines following, which contain the same matter, with eighty-four of Chaucer, beginning thus :

Tho came the sixth companye,

And gan faste to Fame cry, etc.

being too prolix to be here inserted. P.

Straight the black clarion sends a horrid sound,
Loud laughs burst out, and bitter scoffs fly round,
Whispers are heard, with taunts reviling loud,
And scornful hisses run thro' all the croud. 405

Last, those who boast of mighty mischiefs done,
Enslave their country, or usurp a throne;
Or who their glory's dire foundation laid
On Sov'reigns ruin'd, or on friends betray'd;
Calm, thinking villains, whom no faith could fix, 410
Of crooked counsels and dark politics;
Of these a gloomy tribe surround the throne,
And beg to make th' immortal treasons known.
The trumpet roars, long flaky flames expire,
With sparks, that seem'd to set the world on fire. 415
At the dread sound, pale mortals stood aghast,
And startled nature trembled with the blast.

This having heard and seen, some pow'r unknown
Strait chang'd the scene, and snatch'd me from the
throne.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 406. *Last, those who boast of mighty, etc.]*

Tho came another companye,
That had y-done the treachery, etc. P.

VER. 418. *This having heard and seen, etc.]* The Scene
here changes from the temple of Fame to that of Rumour,
which is almost entirely Chaucer's. The particulars fol-
low.

Tho saw I stonde in a valey,
Under the castle fast by
A house, that Domus Dedali

Before my view appear'd a structure fair, 420
 Its site uncertain, if in earth or air;
 With rapid motion turn'd the mansion round;
 With ceaseless noise the ringing walls resound;
 Not less in number were the spacious doors,
 Than leaves on trees, or sands upon the shores; 425
 Which still unfolded stand, by night, by day,
 Pervious to winds, and open ev'ry way.
 As flames by nature to the skies ascend,
 As weighty bodies to the centre tend,

IMITATIONS.

That Labyrinthus cleped is,
 Nas made so wonderly, I wis,
 Ne half so queintly y-wrought;
 And evermo as swift as thought,
 This queint hquse about went,
 That never more it still stent—
 And eke this house hath of entrees
 As many as leaves are on trees,
 In summer, when they ben grene;
 And in the roof yet men may sene
 A thousand hoels and well mo,
 To letten the soune out go;
 And by day in every tide
 Ben all the doors open wide,
 And by night each one unshet;
 No porter is there one to let,
 No manner tydings in to pace:
 Ne never rest is in that place. P.

VER. 428. *As flames by nature to the, etc.*] This thought
 is transferr'd hither out of the third book of *Fame*, where
 it takes up no less than one hundred and twenty verses, be-
 ginning thus,

Geffray, thou wottest well this, etc. P.

As to the sea returning rivers roll, 430
 And the touch'd needle trembles to the pole ;
 Hither, as to their proper place, arise
 All various sounds from earth, and seas, and skies,
 Or spoke aloud, or whisper'd in the ear ;
 Nor ever silence, rest, or peace is here. 435
 As on the smooth expanse of crystal lakes
 The sinking stone at first a circle makes ;
 The trembling surface by the motion stirr'd,
 Spreads in a second circle, then a third ;
 Wide, and more wide, the floating rings advance, 440
 Fill all the wat'ry plain, and to the margin dance :
 Thus ev'ry voice and sound, when first they break,
 On neighb'ring air a soft impression make ;
 Another ambient circle then they move ;
 That, in its turn, impels the next above ; 445
 Thro' undulating air the sounds are sent,
 And spread o'er all the fluid element.

There various news I heard of love and strife,
 Of peace and war, health, sickness, death, and life,

IMITATIONS.

VER. 448. *There various news I heard, etc.]*

Of werres, of peace, of marriages,
 Of rest, of labour, of voyages,
 Of abode, of dethe, and of life,
 Of love and hate, accord and strife,
 Of los, of lore, and of winnings,
 Of hele, of sickness, and lessings,

Of loss and gain, of famine and of store, 450
 Of storms at sea, and travels on the shore,
 Of prodigies, and portents seen in air,
 Of fires and plagues, and stars with blazing hair,
 Of turns of fortune, changes in the state,
 The falls of fav'rites, projects of the great, 455
 Of old mismanagements, taxations new :
 All neither wholly false, nor wholly true.

Above, below, without, within, around,
 Confus'd, unnumber'd multitudes are found,

IMITATIONS.

Of divers transmutations
 Of estates and eke of regions,
 Of trust, of drede, of jealousy,
 Of wit, of winning, and of folly,
 Of good, or bad government,
 Of fire, and of divers accident. P.

VER. 458. *Above, below, without, within, etc.]*

But such a grete congregation
 Of folke as I saw roame about,
 Some within, and some without,
 Was never seen, ne shall be est—
 And every wight that I saw there
 Rowned everich in others ear
 A new tyding privily,
 Or else he told it openly
 Right thus, and said, Knowst not thou
 That is betide to night now ?
 No, quoth he, tell me what ?
 And then he told him this and that, etc.

— Thus north and south
 Went every tiding fro mouth to mouth,
 And that encreasing evermo,
 As fire is wont to quicken and go
 From a sparkle sprong amiss,
 Till all the citee brent up is,

Who pass, repass, advance, and glide away ; 460
 Hosts rais'd by fear, and phantoms of a day :
 Astrologers, that future fates foreshew,
 Projectors, quacks, and lawyers not a few ;
 And priests, and party-zealots, num'rous bands
 With home-born lies, or tales from foreign lands ;
 Each talk'd aloud, or in some secret place, 466
 And wild impatience star'd in ev'ry face.
 The flying rumours gather'd as they roll'd,
 Scarce any tale was sooner heard than told ;
 And all who told it added something new, 470
 And all who heard it, made enlargements too,
 In ev'ry ear it spread, on every tongue it grew.
 Thus flying east and west, and north and south,
 News travell'd with increase from mouth to mouth.
 So from a spark, that kindled first by chance, 475
 With gath'ring force the quick'ning flames advance ;
 Till to the clouds their curling heads aspire,
 And tow'rs and temples sink in floods of fire.

When thus ripe lies are to-perfection sprung,
 Full grown, and fit to grace a mortal tongue, 480
 Thro' thousand vents, impatient, forth they flow,
 And rush in millions on the world below.
 Fame sits aloft, and points them out their course,
 Their date determines, and prescribes their force :
 Some to remain, and some to perish soon ; 485
 Or wane and wax alternate like the moon.

Around, a thousand winged wonders fly,
Born by the trumpet's blast, and scatter'd thro' the sky.

There, at one passage, oft you might survey,
A lie and truth contending for the way; 490
And long 'twas doubtful, both so closely pent,
Which first should issue thro' the narrow vent:
At last agreed, together out they fly,
Inseparable now, the truth and lie;
The strict companions are for ever join'd 495
And this or that unmix'd, no mortal e'er shall find.

While thus I stood, intent to see and hear,
One came, methought, and whisper'd in my ear:
What could thus high thy rash ambition raise?
Art thou, fond youth, a candidate for praise? 500
'Tis true, said I, not void of hopes I came,
For who so fond as youthful bards of Fame?

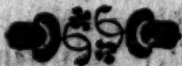
NOTES.

VER. 497. *While thus I stood, etc.*] The hint is taken from a passage in another part of the third book, but here more naturally made the conclusion, with the addition of a *Moral* to the whole. In *Chaucer* he only answers "he came to see the place;" and the book ends abruptly, with his being surprized at the sight of a *Man of great Authority*, and awaking in a fright. P.

IMITATIONS.

VER. 489. *There, at one passage, etc.*)
And sometime I saw there at once,
A lesing and a sad sooth saw
That gonnen at adventure draw
Out of a window forth to pace—
And no man, be he ever so wrothe,
Shall have one of these two, but bothe, etc. P.

But few, alas! the casual blessing boast,
 So hard to gain, so easy to be lost,
 How vain that second life in others breath, 505
 Th' estate which wits inherit after death!
 Ease, health, and life, for this they must resign,
 (Unsure the tenure, but how vast the fine!)
 The great man's curse, without the gains, endure,
 Be envy'd wretched, and be flatter'd, poor; 510
 All luckless wits their enemies profess,
 And all successful, jealous friends at best.
 Nor Fame I slight, nor for her favours call;
 She comes unlook'd for, if she comes at all.
 But if the purchase cost so dear a price, 515
 As soothing Folly, or exalting Vice;
 Oh! if the Muse must flatter lawless sway,
 And follow still where fortune leads the way;
 Or if no basis bear my rising name,
 But the fall'n ruins of another's fame; 520
 Then teach me, heav'n! to scorn the guilty bays,
 Drive from my breast that wretched lust of praise,
 Unblemish'd let me live, or die unknown;
 Oh! grant an honest fame, or grant me none!



(76)

January and May:
OR THE
MERCHANT'S TALE.
FROM
CHAUCER.

THERE liv'd in Lombardy, as authors write,
In days of old, a wise and worthy knight;
Of gentle manners, as of gen'rous race,
Blest with much sense, more riches, and some grace.
Yet led astray by Venus' soft delights, 5
He scarce could rule some idle appetites:
For long ago, let Priests say what they cou'd,
Weak sinful laymen were but flesh and blood.
But in due time, when sixty years were o'er,
He vow'd to lead this vitious life no more; 10
Whether pure holiness inspir'd his mind,
Or dotage turn'd his brain, is hard to find;
But his high courage prick'd him forth to wed,
And try the pleasures of a lawful bed.

NOTES.

[JANUARY AND MAY.] This translation was done at
sixteen or seventeen years of Age. P.

JANUARY AND MAY. 77

This was his nightly dream, his daily care, 15
And to the heav'nly pow'rs his constant pray'r,
Once, ere he dy'd, to taste the blissful life
Of a kind husband and a loving wife.

These thoughts he fortify'd with reasons still,
(For none want reasons to confirm their will.) 20
Grave authors say, and witty poets sing,
That honest wedlock is a glorious thing:
But depth of judgment most in him appears,
Who wisely weds in his maturer years.

Then let him chuse a damsel young and fair; 25
To bless his age, and bring a worthy heir;
'To sooth his cares, and free from noise and strife,
Conduct him gently to the verge of life.

Let sinful batchelors their woes deplore,
Full well they merit all they feel, and more: 30
Unaw'd by precepts, human or divine,
Like birds and beasts, promiscuously they join:
Nor know to make the present blessing last,
To hope the future, or esteem the past:

But vainly boast the joys they never try'd 35
And find divulg'd the secrets they would hide.

The marry'd man may bear his yoke with ease,
Secure at once himself and heav'n to please;
And pass his inoffensive hours away,
In bliss all night, and innocence all day: 40

Tho' fortune change, his constant spouse remains,
Augments his joys, or mitigates his pains.

78 JANUARY AND MAY,

But what so pure, which envious tongues will spare?
Some wicked wits have libell'd all the fair.

With matchless impudence they style a wife — 45

The dear-bought curse, and lawful plague of life;

A bosom-serpent, a domestic evil,

A night-invasion, and a mid-day-devil.

Let not the wife these stand'rous words regard,

But curse the bones of ev'ry lying bard. 50

All other goods by fortune's hand are giv'n,

A wife is the peculiar gift of heav'n.

Vain fortune's favours, never at a stay,

Like empty shadows, pass, and glide away;

One solid comfort, our eternal wife, 55

Abundantly supplies us all our life:

This blessing lasts (if those who try, say true)

As long as heart can wish—and longer too.

Our grandfire Adam, ere of Eve possess'd,
Alone, and ev'n in Paradise unblest'd, 60

With mournful looks the blissful scenes survey'd,

And wander'd in the solitary shade.

The Maker saw, took pity, and bestow'd

Woman, the last, the best reserv'd of God.

A wife! ah gentle deities, can he 65

That has a wife, e'er feel adversity?

Would men but follow what the sex advise,

All things would prosper, all the world grow wise.

'Twas by Rebecca's aid that Jacob won

His father's blessing from an elder son: 70

Abusive Nabal ow'd his forfeit life
 To the wise conduct of a prudent wife:
 Heroic Judith, as old Hebrews show,
 Preserv'd the Jews, and slew th' Assyrian foe:
 At Hester's suit, the persecuting sword 75
 Was sheath'd, and Israel liv'd to bless the Lord.

These weighty motives, January the sage
 Maturely ponder'd in his riper age;
 And charm'd with virtuous joys, and sober life,
 Would try that christian comfort, call'd a wife. 80
 His friends were summon'd on a point so nice,
 To pass their judgment, and to give advice;
 But fix'd before, and well resolv'd was he;
 (As men that ask advice are wont to be.)

My friends, he cry'd (and cast a mournful look 85
 Around the room, and sigh'd before he spoke!)
 Beneath the weight of threescore years I bend,
 And, worn with cares, am hast'ning to my end;
 How I have liv'd, alas! you know too well,
 In worldly follies, which I blush to tell; 90
 But gracious heav'n has op'd my eyes at last,
 With due regret I view my vices past,
 And, as the precept of the Church decrees,
 Will take a wife, and live in holy ease.
 But since by counsel all things should be done, 95
 And many heads are wiser still than one;
 Chuse you for me, who best shall be content
 When my desire's approv'd by your consent.

80 JANUARY AND MAY.

One caution yet is needful to be told,
 To guide your choice ; this wife must not be old : 100
 There goes a saying, and 'twas shrewdly said,
 Old fish at table, but young flesh in bed.
 My soul abhors the tasteless, dry embrace
 Of a stale virgin with a winter face :
 In that cold season Love but treats his guest 105
 With bean-straw, and tough forage at the best.
 No crafty widows shall approach my bed ;
 Those are too wise for batchelors to wed ;
 As subtle clerks by many schools are made,
 Twice marry'd dames are mistresses o' th' trade : 110
 But young and tender virgins, rul'd with ease,
 We form like wax, and mould them as we please.
 Conceive me, Sirs, nor take my sense amiss ;
 'Tis what concerns my soul's eternal bliss ;
 Since if I found no pleasure in my spouse, 115
 As flesh is frail, and who (God help me) knows ?
 Then should I live in leud adultery,
 And sink downright to Satan when I die.
 Or were I curs'd with an unfruitful bed,
 The righteous end were lost, for which I wed ; 120
 To raise up seed to bless the pow'rs above,
 And not for pleasure only, or for love.
 Think not I doat ; 'tis time to take a wife,
 When vig'rous blood forbids a chaster life :
 Those that are blest with store of grace divine, 125
 May live like saints, by heav'n's consent, and mine :

JANUARY AND MAY. 81

And since I speak of wedlock, let me say,
(As, thank my stars in modest truth I may)
My limbs are active, still I'm sound at heart,
And a new vigour springs in ev'ry part. 130

Think not my virtue lost, tho' time has shed
These rev'rend honours on my hoary head :
Thus trees are crown'd with blossoms white as snow,
The vital sap then rising from below.

Old as I am, my lussy limbs appear 135
Like winter greens, that flourish all the year.

Now, Sirs, you know to what I stand inclin'd,
Let ev'ry friend with freedom speak his mind.

He said ; the rest in different parts divide ;
The knotty point was urg'd on either side : 140

Marriage, the theme on which they all declaim'd,
Some prais'd with wit, and some with reason blam'd.

Till, what with proofs, objections, and replies,
Each wondrous positive, and wondrous wise,

There fell between his brothers a debate, 145
Placebo this was call'd, and Justin that.

First to the Knight Placebo thus begun,
(Mild were his looks, and pleasing was his tone)

Such prudence, Sir, in all your words appears,
As plainly proves, experience dwells with years !

Yet you pursue sage Solomon's advice, 151
To work by counsel when affairs are nice :

82 JANUARY AND MAY.

But, with the wise man's leave, I must protest,
 So may my soul arrive at ease and rest,
 As still I hold your old advice the best. 155

Sir, I have liv'd a Courtier all my days,
 And study'd men, their manners, and their ways;
 And have observ'd this useful maxim still,
 To let my betters always have their will.
 Nay, if my lord affirm'd that black was white, 160
 My word was this, "Your honour's in the right."
 Th' assuming Wit, who deems himself so wise,
 As his mistaken patron to advise,
 Let him not dare to vent his dang'rous thought,
 A noble fool was never in a fault. 165

This, Sir, affects not you, whose ev'ry word
 Is weigh'd with judgment, and befits a Lord:
 Your will is mine; and is (I will maintain)
 Pleasing to God, and should be so to Man;
 At least, your courage all the world must praise, 170
 Who dare to wed in your declining days.
 Indulge the vigour of your mounting blood,
 And let grey fools be indolently good.
 Who, past all pleasure, damn the joys of sense,
 With rev'rend dulness and grave impotence. 175

Justin, who silent sate, and heard the man,
 Thus, with a Philosophic frown, began.

A heathen author, of the first degree,
 (Who, tho' not Faith, had Sense as well as we)

JANUARY AND MAY. 83.

Bids us be certain our concerns to trust 180

To those of gen'rous principles, and just.

The venture's greater, I'll presume to say,

To give your person, than your goods away :

And therefore, Sir, as you regard your rest,

First learn your Lady's qualities at least : 185

Whether she's chaste or rampant, proud or civil ;

Meek as a saint, or haughty as the devil ;

Whether an easy, fond, familiar fool,

Or such a wit as no man e'er can rule.

'Tis true, perfection none must hope to find 190

In all this world, much less in woman-kind ;

But if her virtues prove the larger share,

Bless the kind fates, and think your fortune rare.

Ah, gentle Sir, take warning of a friend,

Who knows too well the state you thus commend ;

And spight of all his praises must declare, 196

All he can find is bondage, cost, and care.

Heav'n knows, I shed full many a private tear,

And sigh in silence, lest the world should hear :

While all my friends applaud my blissful life, 200

And swear no mortal's happier in a wife ;

Demure and chaste as any vestal Nun,

The meekest creature that beholds the sun!

But, by th' immortal powers, I feel the pain,

And he that smarts has reason to complain. 205

84 JANUARY AND MAY.

Do what you list, for me ; you must be sage,
 And cautious sure ; for wisdom is in Age :
 But at these years, to venture on the fair !
 By him, who made the ocean, earth, and air,
 To please a wife, when her occasions call, 210
 Would busy the most vig'rous of us all.
 And trust me, Sir, the chastest you can chuse
 Will ask observance, and exact her dues.
 If what I speak my noble Lord offend,
 My tedious sermon here is at an end. 215

'Tis well, 'tis wondrous well, the Knight replies,
 Most worthy kinsman, faith you're mighty wise !
 We, Sirs, are fools ; and must resign the cause
 To heath'nish authors, proverbs, and old saws.
 He spoke with scorn, and turn'd another way :— 220
 What does my friend, my dear Placebo say ?

I say, quoth he, by heav'n the man's to blame,
 To slander wives and wedlock's holy name.

At this the council rose, without delay ;
 Each, in his own opinion, went his way ; 225
 With full consent, that, all disputes appeas'd,
 The knight should marry, when and where he pleas'd.

Who now but January exults with joy ?
 The charms of Wedlock all his soul employ :
 Each nymph by turns his wav'ring mind possess'd, 230
 And reign'd the short-liv'd tyrant of his breast ;
 Whilst fancy pictur'd ev'ry lively part,
 And each bright image wander'd o'er his heart.

JANUARY AND MAY. 85

Thus, in some publick Forum fix'd on high,
A Mirrour shows the figures moving by; 235
Still one by one, in swift succession, pass
The gliding shadows o'er the polish'd glass.

This Lady's charms the nicest could not blame,
But vile suspicions had aspers'd her fame;
That was with sense, but not with virtue, blest: 240
And one had grace, that wanted all the rest.

Thus doubting long what nymph he should obey,
He fix'd at last upon the youthful May.

Her faults he knew not, Love is always blind,
But ev'ry charm revolv'd within his mind: 245

Her tender age, her form divinely fair,
Her easy motion, her attractive air,
Her sweet behaviour, her enchanting face,
Her moving softness, and majestic grace.

Much in his prudence did our Knight rejoice, 250
And thought no mortal could dispute his choice:

Once more in haste he summon'd ev'ry friend,
And told them all, their pains were at an end.
Heav'n, that (said he) inspir'd me first to wed,
Provides a comfort worthy of my bed: 255

Let none oppose th' election, since on this
Depends my quiet, and my future bliss.

A dame there is, the darling of my eyes,
Young, beauteous, artless, innocent, and wise;

86 JANUARY AND MAY.

Chaste, tho' not rich ; and tho' not nobly born, 260
 Of honest parents, and may serve my turn.
 Her will I wed, if gracious heav'n so please ;
 To pass my age in sanctity and ease :
 And thank the pow'rs, I may possess alone
 The lovely prize, and share my bliss with none! 265
 If you, my friends, this virgin can procure,
 My joys are full, my happiness is sure.

One only doubt remains : Full oft I've heard,
 By casuists grave, and deep divines averr'd ;
 That 'tis too much for human race to know 270
 The bliss of heav'n above, and earth below.
 Now should the nuptial pleasures prove so great,
 To match the blessings of the future state,
 Those endless joys were ill exchang'd for these ;
 Then clear this doubt, and set my mind at ease. 275

This Justin heard, nor could his spleen controul,
 Touch'd to the quick, and tickled at the soul.
 Sir Knight, he cry'd, if this be all you dread,
 Heav'n put it past your doubt, whene'er you wed ;
 And to my fervent pray'rs so far consent, 280
 That ere the rites are o'er, you may repent!
 Good heav'n, no doubt, the nuptial state approves,
 Since it chastises still what best it loves.

Then be not, Sir, abandon'd to despair ;
 Seek ; and perhaps you'll find among the fair, 285
 One, that may do your business to a hair ;

JANUARY AND MAY. 87

Not ev'n in wish, your happiness delay,
 But prove the scourge to lash you on your way :
 Then to the skies your mounting soul shall go,
 Swift as an arrow soaring from the bow ! 290
 Provided still, you moderate your joy,
 Nor in your pleasures all your might employ,
 Let reason's rule your strong desires abate,
 Nor please too lavishly your gentle mate.
 Old wives there are, of judgment most acute, 295
 Who solve these questions beyond all dispute ;
 Consult with those, and be of better cheer :
 Marry, do penance, and dismiss your fear.

So said, they rose, nor more the work delay'd ;
 The match was offer'd, the proposals made. 300
 The parents, you may think, would soon comply ;
 The Old have int'rest ever in their eye.
 Nor was it hard to move the Lady's mind ;
 When fortune favours, still the Fair are kind.

I pass each previous settlement and deed, 305
 Too long for me to write, or you to read ;
 Nor will with quaint impertinence display
 The pomp, the pageantry, the proud array.
 The time approach'd, to Church the parties went,
 At once with carnal and devout invent : 310
 Forth came the Priest, and bade th' obedient wife
 Like Sarah or Rebecca lead her life.

88 JANUARY AND MAY.

Then pray'd the pow'rs the fruitful bed to bless,
And made all sure enough with holiness.

And now the palace-gates are open'd wide, 315 }
The guests appear in order, side by side, }
And plac'd in state, the bridegroom and the bride. }
The breathing flute's soft notes are heard around,
And the shrill trumpets mix their silver sound;
The vaulted roofs with echoing musick ring, 320
These touch the vocal stops, and those the trembling
string.

Not thus Amphion tun'd the warbling lyre,
Nor Joab the sounding clarion could inspire,
Nor fierce Theodomas, whose sprightly strain
Could swell the soul to rage, and fire the martial train.

Bacchus himself, the nuptial feast to grace, 326
(So Poets sing) was present on the place :
And lovely Venus, Goddess of delight,
Shook high her flaming torch in open sight,
And danc'd around, and smil'd on ev'ry knight : 330 }
Pleas'd her best servant would his courage try,
No less in wedlock, than in liberty.

Full many an age old Hymen had not spy'd
So kind a bridegroom, or so bright a bride.
Ye bards ! renown'd among the tuneful throng 335
For gentle lays, and joyous nuptial song ;
Think not your softest numbers can display
The matchless glories of this blissful day :

JANUARY AND MAY. 89

The joys are such, as far transcend your rage,
When tender youth has wedded stooping age. 340

The beauteous dame fate smiling at the board,
And darted am'rous glances at her Lord.
Not Hester's self, whose charms the Hebrews sing,
E'er look'd so lovely on her Persian King:

Bright as the rising sun, in summer's day, 345
And fresh and blooming as the month of May!
The joyful Knight survey'd her by his side,
Nor envy'd Paris with the Spartan bride:
Still as his mind revolv'd with vast delight
Th' entrancing raptures of th' approaching night, 350
Restless he sat, invoking ev'ry pow'r

To speed his bliss, and haste the happy hour.
Mean time the vig'rous dancers beat the ground,
And songs were sung, and flowing bowls went round.
With od'rous spices they perfum'd the place, 355
And mirth and pleasure shone in ev'ry face.

Damian alone, of all the menial train,
Sad in the midst of triumph, sigh'd for pain;
Damian alone, the Knight's obsequious squire,
Consum'd at heart, and fed a secret fire. 360

His lovely mistress all his soul possess'd,
He look'd, he languish'd, and could take no rest:
His task perform'd, he sadly went his way,
Fell on his bed, and loath'd the light of day.
There let him lie; till his relenting dame 365
Weep in her turn, and waste in equal flame.

90 JANUARY AND MAY.

The weary sun, as learned Poets write,
 Forsook th' Horizon, and roll'd down the light ;
 While gitt'ring stars his absent beams supply,
 And night's dark mantle overspread the sky. 370
 Then rose the guests ; and as the time requir'd,
 Each paid his thanks, and decently retir'd.

The foe once gone, our Knight prepar'd t' undress,
 So keen he was, and eager to possess :
 But first thought fit th' assistance to receive, 375
 Which grave Physicians scruple not to give ;
 Satyrion near, with hot Eringo's flood,
 Cantharides, to fire the lazy blood,
 Whose use old Bards describe in luscious rhymes,
 And Critics learn'd explain to modern times. 380

By this the sheets were spread, the bride undress'd,
 The room was sprinkled, and the bed was bless'd.

What next ensu'd beseems not me to say ;
 'Tis sung, he labour'd till the dawning day,
 Then briskly sprung from bed, with heart so light, }
 As all were nothing he had done by night ; 386 }
 And sipp'd his cordial as he sate upright. }
 He kiss'd his balmy spouse with wanton play,
 And feebly sung a lusty roundelay :

Then on the couch his weary limbs he cast ; 390
 For ev'ry labour must have rest at last.

But anxious cares the pensive Squire oppress'd,
 Sleep fled his eyes, and peace forsook his breast ;

JANUARY AND MAY. 91

The raging flames that in his bosom dwell,
 He wanted art to hide, and means to tell. 395
 Yet hoping time th' occasion might betray,
 Compos'd a sonnet to the lovely May;
 Which writ and folded with the nicest art,
 He wrapp'd in silk, and laid upon his heart.

When now the fourth revolving day was run, 400
 ('Twas June, and Cancer had receiv'd the Sun)
 Forth from her chamber came the beauteous bride,
 The good old Knight mov'd slowly by her side.
 High mass was sung; they feasted in the hall;
 The servants round stood ready at their call. 405
 The Squire alone was absent from the board,
 And much his sickness griev'd his worthy lord,
 Who pray'd his spouse, attended with her train,
 To visit Damian, and divert his pain.
 Th' obliging dames obey'd with one consent; 410
 They left the hall, and to his lodging went.
 The female tribe surround him as he lay,
 And close beside him sat the gentle May:
 Where, as she try'd his pulse, he softly drew
 A heaving sigh, and cast a mournful view! 415
 Then gave his bill, and brib'd the pow'rs divine,
 With secret vows, to favour his design.

Who studies now but discontented May?
 On her soft couch uneasily she lay:
 The lumpish husband snor'd away the night, 420
 Till coughs awak'd him near the morning light.

92 JANUARY AND MAY.

What then he did, I'll not presume to tell,
Nor if she thought herself in heav'n or hell:
Honest and dull in nuptial bed they lay,
Till the bell toll'd, and all arose to pray. 425

Were it by forceful destiny decreed,
Or did from chance, or nature's pow'r proceed;
Or that some star, with aspect kind to love,
Shed its selectest influence from above?
Whatever was the cause, the tender dame 430
Felt the first motions of an infant flame;
Receiv'd th' impressions of the love-sick Squire,
And wasted in the soft infectious fire.

Ye fair, draw near, let May's example move
Your gentle minds to pity those who love! 435
Had some fierce tyrant in her stead been found,
The poor adorer sure had hang'd, or drown'd:
But she, your sex's mirrour, free from pride,
Was much too meek to prove a homicide.

But to my tale: Some sages have defin'd 440
Pleasure the sov'reign bliss of human-kind:
Our knight (who study'd much, we may suppose)
Deriv'd his high philosophy from those;
For, like a Prince, he bore the vast expence
Of lavish pomp, and proud magnificence: 445
His house was stately, his retinue gay,
Large was his train, and gorgeous his array.
His spacious garden made to yield to none,
Was compass'd round with walls of solid stone;

JANUARY AND MAY. 93

Priapus could not half describe the grace 450
(Tho' God of Gardens) of this charming place;
A place to tire the rambling wits of France
In long descriptions, and exceed Romance:
Enough to shame the gentlest bard that sings
Of painted meadows, and of purling springs. 455

Full in the centre of the flow'ry ground,
A crystal fountain spread its streams around,
The fruitful banks with verdant laurels crown'd:
About this spring (if ancient fame say true)
The dapper Elves their moon-light sports pursue:
Their pigmy king, and little fairy queen, 461
In circling dances gambol'd on the green,
While tuneful sprites a merry concert made,
And airy music warbled thro' the shade.

Hither the noble knight would oft repair, 465
(His scene of pleasure, and peculiar care)
For this he held it dear, and always bore
The silver key that lock'd the garden door.
To this sweet place in summer's sultry heat,
He us'd from noise and bus'ness to retreat; 470
And here in dalliance spend the live-long day,
Solus cum sola, with his sprightly May.

For whate'er work was undischarg'd a-bed,
The duteous knight in this fair garden sped.

But ah! what mortal lives of bliss secure, 475
How short a space our wordly joys endure?
O fortune, fair, like all thy treach'rous kind,
But faithless still, and wav'ring as the wind!

94 JANUARY AND MAY.

O painted monster, form'd mankind to cheat,
With pleasing poison, and with soft deceit 480
This rich, this am'rous, venerable knight,
Amidst his ease, his solace, and delight,
Struck blind by thee, resigns his days to grief,
And calls on death, the wretch's last relief.

The rage of jealousy then seiz'd his mind, 485
For much he fear'd the faith of woman-kind.

His wife not suffer'd from his side to stray,
Was captive kept, he watch'd her night and day,
Abridg'd her pleasures, and confin'd her sway.

Full oft in tears did hapless May complain, 490

And sigh'd full oft; but sigh'd and wept in vain;

She look'd on Damian with a lover's eye;

For oh, 'twas fixt; she must possess or die!

Nor less impatience vex'd her am'rous Squire,

Wild with delay, and burning with desire. 495

Watch'd as she was, yet could he not refrain

By secret writing to disclose his pain:

The dame by signs reveal'd her kind intent,

Till both were conscious what each other meant.

Ah, gentle knight, what would thy eyes avail, 500

Tho' they could see as far as ships can sail?

'Tis better, sure, when blind, deceiv'd to be,

Than be deluded when a man can see!

Argus himself, so cautious and so wise,

Was over-watch'd for all his hundred eyes: 505

So many an honest husband may, 'tis known,
Who, wisely, never thinks the case his own.

The dame at last, by diligence and care,
Procur'd the key her knight was wont to bear;
She took the wards in wax before the fire, 510
And gave th' impression to the trusty Squire.
By means of this, some wonder shall appear,
Which, in due place and season, you may hear.

Well sung sweet Ovid, in the days of yore,
What flight is that, which love will not explore? 515
And Pyramus and Thisbe plainly show
The feats true lovers, when they list, can do:
Tho' watch'd and captive, yet in spite of all,
They found the art of kissing thro' a wall.

But now no longer from our tale to stray; 520
It hap'd, that once upon a summer's day,
Our rev'rend Knight was urg'd to am'rous play;
He rais'd his spouse ere Matin-bell was rung,
And thus his morning canticle he sung.

Awake, my love, disclose thy radiant eyes; 525
Arise, my wife, my beauteous lady, rise!
Hear how the doves with pensive notes complain,
And in soft murmurs tell the trees their pain;
The winter's past; the clouds and tempests fly;
The sun adorns the fields, and brightens all the sky.
Fair without spot, whose ev'ry charming part 531
My bosom wounds, and captivates my heart;

96 JANUARY AND MAY.

Come, and in mutual pleasures let's engage,
Joy of my life, and comfort of my age.

This heard, to Damian strait a sign she made, 535
To haste before ; the gentle Squire obey'd :
Secret, and undescri'd he took his way,
And ambush'd close behind an arbour lay.

It was not long ere January came,
And hand in hand with him his lovely dame ; 540
Blind as he was, not doubting all was sure,
He turn'd the key, and made the gate secure.

Here let us walk, he said, observ'd by none,
Conscious of pleasures to the world unknown :
So may my soul have joy, as thou, my wife, 545
Art far the dearest solace of my life ;

And rather would I chuse, by heav'n above
To die this instant, than to lose thy love.
Reflect what truth was in my passion shewn,
When unendow'd, I took thee for my own, 550
And sought no treasure but thy heart alone.
Old as I am, and now depriv'd of sight,
Whilst thou art faithful to thy own true Knight,
Nor age, nor blindness, rob me of delight.
Each other loss with patience I can bear, 555
The loss of thee is what I only fear.

Consider then, my lady and my wife,
The solid comforts of a virtuous life.
As first, the love of Christ himself you gain ;
Next, your own honour undefil'd maintain ; 560

And lastly, that which sure your mind must move,
 My whole estate shall gratify your love :
 Make your own terms, and ere to-morrow's sun
 Displays his light, by heav'n it shall be done.
 I seal the contract with a holy kiss, 565
 And will perform, by this—my dear, and this—
 Have comfort, spouse, nor think thy Lord unkind ;
 'Tis love, not jealousy, that fires my mind.
 For when thy charms my sober thoughts engage,
 And join'd to them my own unequal age, 570
 From thy dear side I have no pow'r to part,
 Such secret transports warm my melting heart.
 For who that once possess'd those heav'nly charms,
 Could live one moment absent from thy arms ? 574

He ceas'd, and May with modest grace reply'd ;
 (Weak was her voice, as while she spok'd she cry'd ;)
 Heav'n knows ! (with that a tender sigh she drew)
 I have a soul to save as well as you ;
 And, what no less you to my charge commend,
 My dearest honour, will to death defend. 580
 To you in holy Church I gave my hand ;
 And join'd my heart in wedlock's sacred band :
 Yet after this, if you distrust my care,
 Then hear, my Lord, and witness what I swear :

First may the yawning earth her bosom rend, 585
 And let me hence to hell alive descend ;

98 JANUARY AND MAY.

Or die the death I dread no less than hell,
 Sew'd in a sack, and plung'd into a well:
 Ere I my fame by one lewd act disgrace,
 Or once renounce the honour of my race. 590
 For know, Sir Knight, of gentle blood I came,
 I loath a whore, and startle at the name.
 But jealous men on their own crimes reflect,
 And learn from thence their ladies to suspect:
 Else why these needless cautions, Sir, to me? 595
 These doubts and fears of female constancy!
 This chime still rings in ev'ry lady's ear,
 The only strain a wife must hope to hear.

Thus while she spoke a sidelong glance she cast,
 Where Damian kneeling, worship'd as she past; 600
 She saw him watch the motions of her eye,
 And singled out a pear-tree planted nigh:
 'Twas charg'd with fruit that made a goodly show,
 And hung with dangling pears was ev'ry bough.
 Thither th' obsequious Squire address'd his pace 605
 And climbing, in the summit took his place;
 The Knight and Lady walk'd beneath in view,
 Where let us leave them, and our tale pursue.

'Twas now the season when the glorious sun
 His heav'nly progress thro' the Twins had run; 610
 And Jove, exalted, his mild influence yields,
 To glad the glebe, and paint the flow'ry fields,
 Clear was the day, and Phœbus rising bright,
 Had streak'd the azure firmament with light; 614

JANUARY AND MAY. 99

He pierc'd the glitt'ring clouds with golden streams;
And warm'd the womb of earth with genial beams.

It so befel, in that fair morning tide,
The Fairies sported on the garden side,
And in the midst their Monarch and his bride.
So featly tripp'd the light-foot ladies round, 620
The knights so nimbly o'er the green-sward bound,
That scarce they bent the flow'rs, or touch'd the
ground.

The dances ended, all the fairy train
For pinks and daisies search'd the flow'ry plain;
While on a bank reclin'd of rising green, 625
Thus, with a frown, the King bespoke his Queen.

'Tis too apparent, argue what you can,
The treachery you women use to man:
A thousand authors have this truth made out,
And sad experience leaves no room for doubt. 630

Heav'n rest thy spirit, noble Solomon,
A wiser monarch never saw the sun:
All wealth, all honours, the supreme degree
Of earthly bliss, was well bestow'd on thee!
For sagely hast thou said: Of all mankind, 635
One only just, and righteous, hope to find:
But should'st thou search the spacious world around,
Yet one good woman is not to be found.

Thus says the King who knew your wickedness;
The son of Simeon testifies no less.

100 JANUARY AND MAY.

So may some wildfire on your bodies fall, 640
 Or some devouring plague consume you all ;
 As well you view the leacher in the tree,
 And well this honourable Knight you see :
 But since he's blind and old (a helpless case)
 His Squire shall cuckold him before your face. 645

Now by my own dread majesty I swear,
 And by this awful sceptre which I bear,
 No impious wretch shall 'scape unpunish'd long,
 That in my presence offers such a wrong.
 I will this instant undeceive the Knight, 650
 And, in the very act restore his sight :
 And set the strumpet here in open view,
 A warning to these Ladies, and to you,
 And all the faithless sex, for ever to be true.

And will you so, reply'd the Queen, indeed ? 655
 Now, by my mother's soul it is decreed,
 She shall not want an answer at her need.
 For her, and for her daughters, I'll engage,
 And all the sex in each succeeding age ;
 Art shall be theirs to varnish an offence, 660
 And fortify their crimes with confidence.
 Nay, were they taken in a strict embrace,
 Seen with both eyes, and pinion'd on the place ;
 All they shall need is to protest and swear,
 Breathe a soft sigh, and drop a tender tear ; 665
 Till their wise husbands, gull'd by arts like these,
 Grow gentle, tractable, and tame as geese,

JANUARY AND MAY. 101

What tho' this sland'rous Jew, this Solomon,
Call'd women fools, and knew full many a one;
The wiser wits of later times declare, 670

How constant, chaste, and virtuous women are:
Witness the martyrs, who resign'd their breath,
Serene in torments, unconcern'd in death;
And witness next what Roman authors tell,
How Arria, Portia, and Lucretia fell. 675

But since the sacred leaves to all are free,
And men interpret texts, why should not we?
By this no more was meant, than to have shown,
That sov'reign goodness dwells in him alone
Who only Is, and is but only One. 680

But grant the worst; shall women then be weigh'd
By ev'ry word that Solomon has said?
What tho' this King (as ancient story boasts)
Built a fair temple to the Lord of Hosts;
He ceas'd at last his Maker to adore, 685
And did as much for Idol gods, or more.

Beware what lavish praises you confer
On a rank leacher and idolater;
Whose reign indulgent God, says Holy Writ,
Did but for David's righteous sake permit; 690
David, the monarch after heav'n's own mind,
Who lov'd our sex, and honour'd all our kind.

Well, I'm a Woman, and as such must speak;
Silence would swell me, and my heart would break.

162 JANUARY AND MAY.

Know then, I scorn your dull authorities, 695
Your idle wits, and all their learned lyes.
By heav'n, those authors are our sex's foes,
Whom, in our right, I must and will oppose.

Nay (quoth the King) dear Madam, be not wroth:
I yield it up; but since I gave my oath, 700
That this much-injur'd Knight again should see;
It must be done—I am a King, said he,
And one, whose faith has ever sacred been—

And so has mine (she said)—I am a Queen:
Her answer she shall have, I undertake; 705
And thus an end of all dispute I make.
Try when you list; and you shall find, my Lord,
It is not in our sex to break our word.

We leave them here in this heroic strain,
And to the Knight our story turns again; 710
Who in the garden, with his lovely May,
Sung merrier than the Cuckow or the Jay:
This was his song; “Oh kind and constant be,
“Constant and kind I'll ever prove to thee.”

Thus singing as he went, at last he drew 715
By easy steps, to where the Pear-tree grew:
The longing dame look'd up, and spy'd her Love,
Full fairly perch'd among the boughs above.
She stopp'd, and sighing: Oh good Gods, she cry'd,
What pangs, what sudden shoots distend my side?
O for that tempting fruit, so fresh, so green; 721
Help, for the love of heav'n's immortal Queen!

Help, dearest lord, and save at once the life
Of thy poor infant, and thy longing wife!

Sore sigh'd the Knight to hear his Lady's cry, 725
But could not climb, and had no servant nigh:
Old as he was, and void of eye-sight too,
What could, alas! a helpless husband do?
And must I languish then, she said, and die,
Yet view the lovely fruit before my eye? 730
At least, kind Sir, for charity's sweet sake,
Vouchsafe the trunk between your arms to take;
Then from your back I might ascend the tree;
Do you but stoop, and leave the rest to me.

With all my soul, he thus reply'd again, 735
I'd spend my dearest blood to ease thy pain.
With that, his back against the trunk he bent,
She seiz'd a twig, and up the tree she went.

Now prove your patience, gentle Ladies all!
Nor let on me your heavy anger fall: 740
'Tis truth I tell, tho' not in phrase refin'd;
Tho' blunt my tale, yet honest is my mind.
What feats the lady in the tree might do,
I pass, as gambols never known to you;
But sure it was a merrier fit, she swore, 745
Than in her life she ever felt before.

In that nice moment, lo! the wond'ring knight
Look'd out, and stood restor'd to sudden sight.

104 JANUARY AND MAY.

Strait on the tree his eager eyes he bent,
 As one whose thoughts were on his spouse intent;
 But when he saw his bosom-wife so dress'd, 754
 His rage was such as cannot be express'd:
 Not frantic mothers when their infants die,
 With louder clamours rend the vaulted sky:
 He cry'd, he roar'd, he storm'd, he tore his hair;
 Death! hell! and furies! what dost thou do there!

What ails my Lord? the trembling dame reply'd;
 I thought your patience had been better try'd:
 Is this your love, ungrateful and unkind,
 This my reward for having cur'd the blind? 760
 Why was I taught to make my husband see,
 By struggling with a Man upon a Tree?
 Did I for this the pow'r of magic prove?
 Unhappy wife, whose crime was too much love!

If this be struggling, by this holy light, 765
 'Tis struggling with a vengeance (quoth the Knight)
 So heav'n preserve the sight it has restor'd,
 As with these eyes I plainly saw thee whor'd;
 Whor'd by my slave—perfidious wretch! may hell
 As surely seize thee, as I saw too well. 770

Guard me, good angels! cry'd the gentle May,
 Pray heav'n, this magic work the proper way!
 Alas, my love! 'tis certain, could you see,
 You ne'er had us'd these killing words to me:
 So help me, fates, as 'tis no perfect fight, 775
 But some faint glimm'ring of a doubtful light,

JANUARY AND MAY. 105

What I have said (quoth he) I must maintain,
For by th' immortal pow'rs it *seem'd* too plain—

By all those pow'rs, some frenzy seiz'd your mind,
(Reply'd the dame) are these the thanks I find? 780
Wretch that I am, that e'er I was so kind?

She said; a rising sigh express'd her woe,
The ready tears apace began to flow,
And as they fell she wip'd from either eye
The drops (for women, when they list, can cry.) 785

The Knight was touch'd; and in his looks appear'd
Signs of remorse, while thus his spouse he cheer'd:
Madam, 'tis past, and my short anger o'er!

Come down, and vex your tender heart no more;
Excuse me, dear, if aught amiss was said, 790
For, on my soul, amends shall soon be made:
Let my repentance your forgiveness draw,

By heav'n, I swore but what I *thought* I saw,

Ah my lov'd lord! 'twas much unkind (she cry'd)
On bare suspicion thus to treat your bride. 795

But till your fight's establish'd, for a while,
Imperfect objects may your sense beguile.

Thus when from sleep we first our eyes display,
The balls are wounded with the piercing ray
And dusky vapours rise, and intercept the day. 800

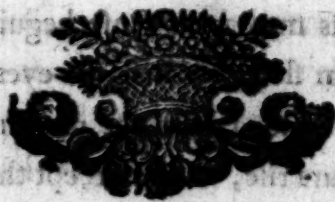
So just recov'ring from the shades of night,
Your swimming eyes are drunk with sudden light,
Strange phantoms dance around, and skim before
your sight;

106 JANUARY AND MAY.

Then, Sir, be cautious, nor too rashly deem;
Heav'n knows how seldom things are what they seem!
Consult your reason, and you soon shall find 806
'Twas you were jealous, not your wife unkind:
Jove nev'r spoke oracle more true than this,
None judge so wrong as those who think amiss.

With that she leap'd into her Lord's embrace 810
With well-dissembled virtue in her face,
He hugg'd her close, and kiss'd her o'er and o'er,
Disturb'd with doubts and jealousies no more:
Both, pleas'd and bless'd, renew'd their mutual vows,
A fruitful wife, and a believing spouse. 815

Thus ends our tale, whose moral next to make,
Let all wise husbands hence example take;
And pray, to crown the pleasure of their lives,
To be so well deluded by their wives.



(107.)
THE
WIFE of BATH.

HER
PROLOGUE.

FROM
CHAUCER.

BEHOLD the woes of matrimonial life,
And hear with rev'rence an experienc'd wife !
To dear-bought wisdom give the credit due,
And think, for once, a woman tells you true.
In all these trials I have borne a part,
I was myself the scourge that caus'd the smart;
For, since fifteen, in triumph have I led
Five captive husbands from the church to bed.

Christ saw a wedding once, the Scripture says,
And saw but one, 'tis thought, in all his days ; 10
Whence some infer, whose conscience is too nice,
No pious Christian ought to marry twice.

But let them read, and solve me, if they can,
The words address'd to the Samaritan:
Five times in lawful wedlock she was join'd ; 15
And sure the certain stint was ne'er defin'd.

108 THE WIFE OF BATH.

Encrease and multiply, was heav'n's command,
And that's a text I clearly understand.

This too, "Let men their fires and mothers leave,
"And to their dearer wives for ever cleave." 20

More wives than one by Solomon were try'd,
Or else the wisest of mankind's bely'd.

I've had myself full many a merry fit;
And trust in heav'n I may have many yet.

For when my transitory spouse, unkind, 25 }
Shall die, and leave his woeful wife behind, }
I'll take the next good Christian I can find. }

Paul, knowing one could never serve our turn,
Declar'd 'twas better far to wed than burn.

There's danger in assembling fire and tow; 30
I grant 'em that, and what it means you know.

The same Apostle too has elsewhere own'd,

No precept for Virginity he found:

'Tis but a counsel—and we women still

Take which we like, the counsel, or our will. 35

I envy not their bliss, if he or she

Think fit to live in perfect chastity;

Pure let them be, and free from taint or vice;

I, for a few slight spots, am not so nice.

Heav'n calls us diff'rent ways, on these bestows 40

One proper gift, another grants to those:

Not every man's oblig'd to sell his store,

And give up all his substance to the poor;

THE WIFE OF BATH. 109

Such as are perfect, may, I can't deny;

But, by your leaves, Divines, so am not I. 43

Full many a Saint, since first the world began,

Liv'd an unspotted maid; in spite of man:

Let such (a God's name) with fine wheat he fed,

And let us honest wives eat barley bread.

For me, I'll keep the post assign'd by heav'n 50

And use the copious talent it has giv'n:

Let my good spouse pay tribute, do me right,

And keep an equal reck'ning ev'ry night:

His proper body is not his, but mine;

For so said Paul, and Paul's a sound divine. 53

Know then, of those five husbands I have had,

Three were just tolerable, two were bad.

The thrée were old, but rich and fond beside,

And toil'd most piteously to please their bride:

But since their wealth (the best they had) was mine,

The rest, without much loss, I could resign. 61

Sure to be lov'd, I took no pains to please,

Yet had more Pleasure far than they had Ease.

Presents flow'd in apace: with show'rs of gold,

They made their court, like Jupiter of old. 65

If I but smil'd, a sudden youth they found;

And a new palsy seiz'd them when I frown'd.

Ye sov'reign wives! give ear, and understand,

Thus shall ye speak, and exercise command:

For never was it giv'n to mortal man, 70

To lye so boldly as we women can:

110 THE WIFE OF BATH.

Forswear the fact, tho' seen with both his eyes;
And call your maids to witness how he lies.

Hark, old Sir Paul; ('twas thus I us'd to say)
Whence is our neighbour's wife so rich and gay? 75
Treated, carefs'd, where'er she's pleas'd to roam—
I sit in tatters, and immur'd at home.

Why to her house dost thou so oft repair?
Art thou so am'rous? and is she so fair?
If I but see a cousin or a friend, 80

Lord! how you swell, and rage like any fiend!
But you reel home, a drunken beastly bear,
Then preach till midnight in your easy chair;
Cry, wives are false, and ev'ry woman evil,
And give up all that's female to the devil. 85

If poor (you say) she drains her husband's purse;
If rich, she keeps her priest, or something worse;
If highly born, intolerably vain,
Vapours and pride by turn possess her brain,
Now gayly mad, now sourly splenetic, 90
Freakish when well, and fretful when she's sick.

If fair, then chaste she cannot long abide,
By pressing youth attack'd on ev'ry side:
If foul, her wealth the lusty lover lures,
Or else her wit some fool-gallant procures, 95

Or else she dances with becoming grace,
Or shape excuses the defects of face.

There swims no goose so grey, but soon or late;
She finds some honest gander for her mate.

THE WIFE OF BATH. 111

Horses (thou say'st) and asses men may try, 100
And ring suspected vessels ere they buy:
But wives, a random choice, untry'd they take,
They dream in courtship, but in wedlock wake;
Then, nor till then, the veil's remov'd away,
And all the woman glares in open day. 105

You tell me, to preserve your wife's good grace,
Your eyes must always languish on my face,
Your tongue with constant flatt'ries feed my ear,
And tag each sentence with, My life! my dear!
If by strange chance, a modest blush be rais'd, 110
Be sure my fine complexion must be prais'd.
My garments always must be new and gay,
And feasts still kept upon my wedding-day.
Then must my nurse be pleas'd, and fav'rite maid;
And endless treats, and endless visits paid, 115
To a long train of kindred, friends, allies;
All this thou say'st, and all thou say'st are lyes.

On Jenkin too you cast a squinting eye:
What! can your 'prentice raise your jealousy?
Fresh are his ruddy cheeks, his forehead fair, 120
And like the burnish'd gold his curling hair.
But clear thy wrinkled brow, and quit thy sorrow,
I'd scorn your 'prentice, should you die to-morrow.

Why are thy chests all lock'd? on what design?
Are not thy worldly goods and treasure mine? 125
Sir, I'm no fool: nor shall you, by St. John,
Have goods and body to yourself alone.

112 THE WIFE OF BATH.

One you shall quit, in spite of both your eyes—
 I heed not, I, the bolts, the locks, the spies:
 If you had wit, you'd say, "Go where you will, 130
 "Dear spouse, I credit not the tales they tell:
 "Take all the freedoms of a marry'd life;
 "I know thee for a virtuous, faithful wife."

Lord! when you have enough, what need you care
 How merrily soever others fare? 135
 Tho' all the day I give and take delight;
 Doubt not, sufficient will be left at night.
 'Tis but a just and rational desire,
 To light a taper at a neighbour's fire.

There's danger too, you think, in rich array, 140
 And none can long be modest that are gay:
 The Cat, if you but finge her tabby skin;
 The chimney keeps, and sits content within;
 But once grown sleek, will from her corner run,
 Sport with her tail, and wanton in the sun; 145
 She licks her fair round face, and frisks abroad,
 To show her furr, and to be catterwaw'd.

Lo thus, my friends, I wrought to my desires
 These three right ancient venerable fires.
 I told 'em, Thus you say, and thus you do, 150
 And told 'em false, but Jenkin swore 'twas true.
 I, like a dog, could bite as well as whine,
 And first complain'd, whene'er the guilt was mine:
 I tax'd them oft with wenching and amours, 154
 When their weak legs scarce dragg'd 'em out of doors;

THE WIFE OF BATH. 113

And swore the rambles that I took by night,
 Were all to spy what damsels they bedight.
 That colour brought me many hours of mirth;
 For all this wit is giv'n us from our birth.
 Heav'n gave to woman the peculiar grace 160
 To spin, to weep, and cully human race.
 By this nice conduct, and this prudent course,
 By murm'ring, wheedling, stratagem, and force,
 I still prevail'd, and would be in the right,
 Or curtain-lectures made a restless night. 165
 If once my husband's arm was o'er my side,
 What! so familiar with your spouse? I cry'd:
 I levied first a tax upon his need;
 Then let him—'twas a nicety indeed!
 Let all mankind this certain maxim hold, 170
 Marry who will, our sex is to be sold.
 With empty hands no tassels you can lure,
 But fulsome love for gain we can endure;
 For gold we love the impotent and old, 174
 And heave, and pant, and kiss, and cling, for gold.
 Yet with embraces, curses oft I mixt,
 Then kiss'd again, and chid and rail'd betwixt.
 Well, I may make my will in peace, and die,
 For not one word in man's arrears am I.
 To drop a dear dispute I was unable, 180
 Ev'n tho' the Pope himself had sat at table.

114 THE WIFE OF BATH.

But when my point was gain'd, then thus I spoke,
 " Billy, my dear, how sheepishly you look ?
 " Approach, my spouse, and let me kiss thy cheek ;
 " Thou should'st be always thus, resign'd and meek !
 " Of Job's great patience since so oft you preach,
 " Well should you practise, who so well can teach.
 " 'Tis difficult to do, I must allow,
 " But I, my dearest. will instruct you how.
 " Great is the blessing of a prudent wife, 190
 " Who puts a period to domestic strife.
 " One of us two must rule, and one obey ;
 " And since in man right reason bears the sway, }
 " Let that frail thing, weak woman, have her way. }
 " The wives of all my family have rul'd 195
 " Their tender husbands, and their passions cool'd.
 " Fye, 'tis unmanly thus to sigh and groan ;
 " What ! would you have me to yourself alone ?
 " Why take me, Love ! take all and ev'ry part !
 " Here's your revenge ! you love it at your heart. 200
 " Would I vouchsafe to sell what nature gave,
 " You little think what custom I could have.
 " But see ! I'm all your own—nay hold—for shame !
 " What means my dear—indeed—you are to blame."

Thus with my first three Lords I past my life ; 205
 A very woman, and a very wife.
 What sums from these old spouses I could raise,
 Procur'd young husbands in my riper days.

THE WIFE OF BATH. 115

Tho' past my bloom, not yet decay'd was I,
 Wanton and wild, and chatter'd like a pye. 210
 In country dances still I bore the bell,
 And sung as sweet as ev'ning Philomel.
 To clear my quail-pipe, and refresh my soul,
 Full oft I drain'd the spicy nut-brown bowl;
 Rich luscious wines, that youthful blood improve, 215
 And warm the swelling veins to seats of love:
 For 'tis as sure as cold ingenders hail,
 A liqu'rish mouth must have a lech'rous tail;
 Wine let's no lover unrewarded go,
 As all true gamesters by experience know. 220
 But oh, good goods! whene'er a thought I cast
 On all the joys of youth and beauty past,
 To find in pleasures I have had my part,
 Still warms me to the bottom of my heart.
 This wicked world was once my dear delight; 225
 Now all my conquests, all my charms good night!
 The flour consum'd, the best that now I can,
 Is e'en to make my market of the bran.

My fourth dear spouse was not exceeding true;
 He kept, 'twas thought, a private miss of two: 230
 But all that score I paid—as how? you'll say,
 Not with my body, in a filthy way:
 But I so dress'd, and danc'd, and drank, and din'd;
 And view'd a friend, with eyes so very kind,

116 THE WIFE OF BATH.

As stung his heart, and made his marrow fry, 235
 With burning rage, and frantick jealousy,
 His soul, I hope, enjoys eternal glory,
 For here on earth I was his purgatory.
 Oft, when his shoe the most severely wrung,
 He put on careless airs, and sat and sung, 240
 How sore I gall'd him, only heav'n could know,
 And he that felt, and I that caus'd the woe.
 He dy'd, when last from pilgrimage I came,
 With other gossips, from Jerusalem;
 And now lies buried underneath a Rood, 245
 Fair to be seen, and rear'd of honest wood.
 A tomb indeed, with fewer sculptures grac'd,
 Than that Mausolus' pious widow plac'd,
 Or where inshrin'd the great Darius lay;
 But cost on graves is merely thrown away. 250
 The pit fill'd up, with turf we cover'd o'er;
 So blest the good man's soul, I say no more.

Now for my fifth lov'd Lord, the last and best;
 (Kind heav'n afford him everlasting rest)
 Full hearty was his love, and I can shew, 255
 The tokens on my ribs in black and blue;
 Yet, with a knock, my heart he could have won,
 While yet the smart was shooting in the bone.
 How quaint an appetite in women reigns!
 Free gifts we scorn, and love what costs us pains: 260
 Let men avoid us, and on them we leap;
 A glutted market makes provision cheap.

THE WIFE OF BATH. 117

In pure good will I took this jovial spark,
 Of Oxford he, a most egregious clerk.
 He boarded with a widow in the town, 265
 A trusty gossip, one dame Alison.
 Full well the secrets of my soul she knew,
 Better than e'er our parish Priest could do.
 To her I told whatever could befall :
 Had but my husband piss'd against a wall, 270
 Or done a thing that might have cost his life,
 She—and my niece—and one more worthy wife,
 Had known it all : what most he would conceal,
 To these I made no scruple to reveal.
 Oft has he blush'd from ear to ear for shame, 275
 That e'er he told a secret to his dame.

It so befel, in holy time of Lent,
 That oft a day I to this gossip went ;
 (My husband, thank my stars, was out of town)
 From house to house we rambled up and down, 280
 This clerk, myself, and my good neighbour Alfe,
 To see, be seen, to tell, and gather tales.
 Visits to ev'ry Church we daily paid,
 And march'd in ev'ry holy Masquerade,
 The Stations duly, and the Vigils kept ; 285
 Not much we fasted, but scarce ever slept.
 At sermons too I shone in scarlet gay,
 The wasting moth ne'er spoil'd my best array ;
 The cause was this, I wore it ev'ry day.

118 THE WIFE OF BATH.

'Twas when fresh May her early blossoms yields, 290
 This Clerk and I were walking in the fields,
 We grew so intimate, I can't tell how,
 I pawn'd my honour, and engag'd my vow,
 If e'er I laid my husband in his urn,
 That he, and only he, should serve my turn, 295
 We strait struck hands, the bargain was agreed;
 I still have shifts against a time of need:
 The mouse that always trusts to one poor hole,
 Can never be a mouse of any soul.

I vow'd, I scarce could sleep since first I knew him,
 And durst be sworn he had bewitch'd me to him;
 If e'er I slept, I dream'd of him alone,
 And dreams foretel, as learned men have shown.
 All this I said; but dreams, Sirs, I had none!
 I follow'd but my crafty Crony's lore, 305
 Who bid me tell this lye—and twenty more.

Thus day by day, and month by month we past;
 It pleas'd the Lord to take my spouse at last.
 I tore my gown, I soil'd my locks with dust,
 And beat my breasts, as wretched widows—must. 310
 Before my face my handkerchief I spread,
 To hide the flood of tears I did—not shed.
 The good man's coffin to the Church was born;
 Around, the neighbours, and my clerk, too, mourn.
 But as he march'd, good Gods! he show'd a pair 315
 Of legs and feet, so clean, so strong, so fair!

THE WIFE OF BATH. 119

Of twenty winter's age he seem'd to be ;
 I (to say truth) was twenty more than he ;
 But vig'rous still, a lively buxom dame ;
 And had a wondrous gift to quench a flame. 320
 A Conj'ror once, that deeply could divine,
 Assur'd me, Mars in Taurus was my sign.
 As the stars order'd, such my life has been :
 Alas, alas, that ever love was sin !
 Fair Venus gave me fire, and sprightly grace, 325
 And Mars assurance, and a dauntless face.
 By virtue of this pow'rful constellation.
 I follow'd always my own inclination.

But to my tale : A month scarce pass'd away,
 With dance and song we kept the nuptial day. 330
 All I possess'd I gave to his command,
 My goods and chattels, money, house, and land :
 But oft repented, and repent it still ;
 He prov'd a rebel to my sov'reign will :
 Nay once by heav'n he struck me on the face ; 335
 Hear but the fact, and judge yourselves the case.

Stubborn as any lioness was I ;
 And knew full well to raise my voice on high ;
 As true a rambler as I was before,
 And would be so, in spite of all he swore. 340
 He, against this right sagely would advise,
 And old examples set before my eyes.

120 THE WIFE OF BATH.

Tell how the Roman matrons led their life,
Of Gracchus' mother, and Duilius wife;
And chose the sermon, as befeem'd his wit, 345
With some grave sentence out of Holy Writ.

Oft would he say, who builds his house on sands,
Pricks his blind horse across the fallow lands,
Or lets his wife abroad with pilgrims roam,
Deserves a fool's-cap and long ears at home. 350

All this avail'd not; for whoe'er he be
That tells my faults, I hate him mortally:
And so do numbers more, I'll boldly say,
Men, women, clergy, regular, and lay.

My spouse (who was, you know, to learning bred,)
A certain treatise oft at ev'ning read, 355
Where divers authors (whom the dev'l confound
For all their lyes) were in one volume bound.

Valerius, whole; and of St. Jerome, part;
Chrysippus and Tertullian, Ovid's art, 360
Solomon's proverbs, Eloïsa's loves;
And many more than sure the Church approves.

More legends were there here, of wicked wives,
Than good, in all the Bible and Saints-lives.
Who drew the Lion vanquish'd? 'Twas a Man. 365

But could we women write as scholars can,
Men should stand mark'd with far more wickedness
Than all the sons of Adam could redress.

Love seldom haunts the breast where learning lies,
And Venus sets ere Mercury can rise, 370

Those play the scholars who can't play the men,
 And use that weapon which they have, their pen;
 When old, and past the relish of delight,
 Then down they sit, and in their dotage write,
 That not one woman keeps her marriage vow. 375
 (This by the way, but to my purpose now.)

It chanc'd my husband, on a winter's night,
 Read in this book, aloud, with strange delight,
 How the first female (as the Scriptures show)
 Brought her own spouse and all his race to woe. 380
 How Samson fell; and he whom Dejanire
 Wrap'd in th' envom'd shirt, and set on fire.
 How curs'd Eryphile her lord betray'd,
 And the dire ambush Clytæmnestra laid.
 But what most pleas'd him was the Cretan dame,
 And husband-bull—oh monstrous! fie for shame!

He had by heart, the whole detail of woe
 Xantippe made her good man undergo;
 How oft she scolded in a day, he knew,
 How many piss-pots on the sage she threw; 390
 Who took it patiently, and wip'd his head;
 Rain follows thunder; that was all he said.

He read, how Arius to his friend complain'd,
 A fatal tree was growing in his land,
 On which three wives successively had twin'd 395
 A sliding noose, and waver'd in the wind.
 Where grows this plant (reply'd the friend) oh where?
 For better fruit did never orchard bear.

122 THE WIFE OF BATH.

Give me some slip of this most blisful tree,
And in my garden planted shall it be. 400

Then how two wiyes their lord's destruction prove
Thro' hatred one, and one thro' too much love;
That for her husband mix'd a pois'nous draught,
And this for lust an am'rous philtre bought:
The nimble juice soon seiz'd his giddy head, 405
Frantic at night, and in the morning dead.

How some with swords their sleeping lords have slain,
And some have hammer'd nails into their brain,
And some have drench'd them with a deadly potion;
All this he read, and read with great devotion. 410

Long time I heard, and swell'd, and blush'd, and
frown'd;

But when no end of these vile tales I found,
When still he read, and laugh'd, and read again,
And half the night was thus consum'd in vain;
Provok'd to vengeance, three large leaves I tore 415
And with one buffet fell'd him on the floor.

With that my husband in a fury rose,
And down he settled me with hearty blows.

I groan'd, and lay extended on my side;
Oh! thou hast slain me for my wealth (I cry'd) 420
Yet I forgive thee—take my last embrace—

He wept, kind soul! and stoop'd to kiss my face;
I took him such a box as turn'd him blue,
Then sigh'd and cry'd, Adieu, my dear, adieu!

THE WIFE OF BATH. 123

But after many a hearty struggle past, 425
I condescended to be pleas'd at last.

Soon as he said, My mistress and my wife,
Do what you list, the term of all your life :

I took to heart the merits of the cause,
And stood content to rule by wholesome laws ; 430

Receiv'd the reins of absolute command,
With all the government of house and land,
And empire o'er his tongue, and o'er his hand. }

As for the volume that revil'd the dames,
'Twas torn to fragments and condemn'd to flames. 435

Now heav'n on all my husbands gone, bestow
Pleasures above, for tortures felt below :
That rest they wish'd for, grant them in the grave,
And bless those souls my conduct help'd to save !



But after many a weary day, I found
 I could not be so happy as I had
 longed to be. My mind was now
 so full of all that had been
 and I could not find the way
 to the good contentment I had
 once known. I was now
 with all the government of
 my mind, and of my heart,
 I was now in the hands of
 the Lord, and I was now
 in the hands of the Lord.

Now I was in the hands of the Lord,
 and I was now in the hands of the Lord.
 I was now in the hands of the Lord,
 and I was now in the hands of the Lord.
 I was now in the hands of the Lord,
 and I was now in the hands of the Lord.

I was now in the hands of the Lord,
 and I was now in the hands of the Lord.
 I was now in the hands of the Lord,
 and I was now in the hands of the Lord.
 I was now in the hands of the Lord,
 and I was now in the hands of the Lord.



I was now in the hands of the Lord,
 and I was now in the hands of the Lord.

this
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 Cor

THEBAIS of STATIUS.

BOOK I.

A R G U M E N T.

OEDIPUS King of Thebes having by mistake slain his father Laius, and marry'd his mother Jocasta, put out his own eyes, and resign'd his realm to his sons, Eteocles and Polynices. Being neglected by them, he makes his prayer to the Fury Tisiphone, to sow debate betwixt the brothers. They agree at last to reign singly, each a year by turns, and the first lot is obtained by Eteocles. Jupiter, in a council of the Gods, declares his resolution of punishing the Thebans, and Argives also, by means of a marriage betwixt Polynices and one of the daughters of Adrastus king of Argos. Juno opposes, but to no effect; and Mercury is sent on a message to the shades, to the ghost of Laius, who is to appear to Eteocles, and provoke him to break the agreement. Polynices in the mean time departs from Thebes by night, is overtaken by a storm, and arrives at Argos; where he meets with Tydeus, who had fled from Calydon, having kill'd his brother. Adrastus entertains them, having receiv'd an oracle from Apollo that his daughters should be marry'd to a Boar and a Lion, which he understands to be meant of these strangers, by whom the hides of those beasts were worn, and who arriv'd at the time when he kept an annual feast in honour of that God. The rise of this solemnity he relates to his guests, the loves of Phœbus and Psamathe, and the story of Chorcebus. He enquires, and is made acquainted with their descent and quality: The sacrifice is renew'd, and the book concludes with a Hymn to Apollo.

The Translator hopes he needs not apologize for his Choice of this piece, which was made almost in his Childhood. But finding the Version better than he expected, he gave it some Correction a few years afterwards.

P. S T A T I I

T H E B A I D O S

LIBER PRIMUS.

Fraternas acies, alternaque regna profanis
 Decertata odiis, fontesque evolvere Thebas,
 Pierius menti calor incidit. Unde jubetis
 Ire, Deae? gentisne canam primordia dirae?
 Sidonios raptus, et inexorabile pactum
 Legis Agenoreae? scrutantemque aequora Cadmum?
 Longa retro series, trepidum si Martis operti
 Agricolam infandis condentem praelia sulcis 10
 Expediem, penitusque sequar quo carmine muris
 Jusserit Amphion Tyrios accedere montes:
 Unde graves irae cognata in moenia Baccho,
 Quod saevae Junonis opus; cui sumpserit arcum
 Infelix Athamas, cur non expaverit ingens
 Ionium, socio casura Palaemone mater.

THE
THEBAIS
OF
STATIUS.
BOOK the FIRST.

Translated in the Year MDCCIII.

FRaternal rage, the guilty Thebes alarms,
Th' alternate reign destroy'd by impious arms,
Demand our song; a sacred Fury fires
My ravish'd breast, and all the Muse inspires.
O Goddeſs, ſay, ſhall I deduce my rhimes 5
From the dire nation in its early times,
Europa's rape, Agenor's ſtern decree,
And Cadmus ſearching round the ſpacious ſea?
How with the ſerpent's teeth he ſow'd the ſoil,
And reap'd an Iron harveſt of his toil? 10
Or how from joining ſtones the city ſprung,
While to his harp divine Amphion ſung?
Or ſhall I Juno's hate to Thebes reſound,
Whoſe fatal rage th' unhappy Monarch found?
The fire againſt the ſon his arrows drew, 15
O'er the wide fields the furious mother flew,
And while her arms a ſecond hope contain,
Sprung from the rocks and plung'd into the main.

128 STATII THEBAIDOS. LIB. I.

Atque adeo jam nunc gemitus, et prospera Cadmi
 Praeteriisse sinam : limes mihi carminis esto 20
 Oedipodae confusa domus : quando Italia nondum
 Signa, nec Arctos ausim sperare triumphos,
 Bisque jugo Rhenum, bis adactum legibus Istrum,
 Et conjurato dejectos vertice Dacos :
 Aut defensa prius vix pubescentibus annis
 Bella Jovis. Tuque o Latiae decus addite famae,
 Quem nova maturi subeuntem exorsa parentis
 Aeternum sibi Roma cupit : licet arctior omnes
 Limes agat stellas, et te plaga lucida coeli
 Pleiadum, Boreaeque, et hiulci fulminis expers 35
 Sollicitet ; licet ignipedum frenator equorum
 Ipse tuis alte radiantem crinibus arcum
 Imprimat, aut magni cedat tibi Jupiter aequa.
 Parte poli ; maneat hominum contentus habenis,
 Undarum terraeque potens, et sidera dones.

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 129

But wave whate'er to Cadmus may belong;
 And fix, O Muse! the barrier of thy song
 At Oedipus—from his disasters trace
 The long confusions of his guilty race:
 Nor yet attempt to stretch thy bolder wing,
 And mighty Cæsar's conqu'ring eagles sing;
 How twice he tam'd proud Ister's rapid flood,
 While Dacian mountains stream'd with barb'rous
 blood;

Twice taught the Rhine beneath his laws to roll,
 And stretch'd his empire to the frozen Pole,
 Or long before, with early valour strove,
 In youthful arms t'assert the cause of Jove.
 And Thou, great Heir of all thy father's fame,
 Encrease of glory to the Latian name,
 Oh! bless thy Rome with an eternal reign,
 Nor let desiring worlds entreat in vain.
 What tho' the stars contract their heav'nly space,
 And croud their shining ranks to yield thee place;
 Tho' all the skies, ambitious of thy sway,
 Conspire to court thee from our world away;
 Tho' Phœbus longs to mix his rays with thine,
 And in thy glories more serenely shine;
 Tho' Jove himself no less content would be
 To part his throne and share his heav'n with thee;
 Yet stay, great Cæsar! and vouchsafe to reign
 O'er the wide earth, and o'er the watry main;

Tempus erit, cum Pierio tua fortior oestro
 Facta canam : nunc tendo chelyn. satis arma referre
 Aonia, et geminis sceptrum exitiale tyrannis,
 Nec furiis post fata modum, flammisque rebelles
 Seditione rogi, tumultisque carentia regum
 Funera, et egestas alternis mortibus urbes; 55
 Caerula cum rubuit Lernaeo sanguine Dirce,
 Et Thetis arentes assuetum stringere ripas,
 Horruit ingenti venientem Ismenon acervi:

Quem prius heroum Clio dabis? immodicum irae
 Tydea? laurigeri subitos an vatis hiatus?
 Urget ut hostilem propellens caedibus amnem
 Turbidus Hippomedon, plorandaque bella protervi
 Arcados, atque alio Capaneus horrore canendus.

Impia jam merita scrutatus lamina dextra
 Merferat aeterna damnatum nocte pudorem
 Oedipodes, longaue animam sub morte tenebat.

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 131

Resign to Jove his empire of the skies, 43
And people heav'n with Roman denies.

The time will come, when a diviner flame
Shall warm my breast to sing of Cæsar's fame:
Mean while permit that my preluding Muse
In Theban wars an humbler theme may chuse. 50

Of furious hate surviving death she sings,
A fatal throne to two contending Kings,
And fun'ral flames that, parting wide in air,
Express the discord of the souls they bear:

Of towns dispeopled and the wand'ring ghosts 55
Of Kings unbury'd in the waisted coasts;

When Dirce's fountain blush'd with Græcian blood,
And Thetis, near Ismenos' swelling flood,
With dread beheld the rolling surges sweep,

In heaps, his slaughter'd sons into the deep. 60

What Hero, Clio! wilt thou first relate?
The rage of Tydeus, or the Prophet's fate?
Or how, with hills of slain on ev'ry side,
Hippomedon repell'd the hostile tide?

Or how the youth with ev'ry grace adorn'd 65

Untimely fell, to be for ever mourn'd?
Then to fierce Capaneus thy verse extend,
And sing with horror his prodigious end.

Now wretched Oedipus, depriv'd of sight,
Led a long death in everlasting night; 70

NOTES.

VER. 65. *Or how the Youth*] Parthenopæus. P.

132 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Illum indulgentem tenebris, imaeque recessu
 Sedis, inaspectos caelo, radiisque penates
 Servantem, tamen assiduis circumvolat alis
 Saeva dies animi, scelerumque in pectore Dirae. 75
 Tunc vacuos orbes, crudum ac miserabile vitae
 Supplicium, ostentat coelo, manibusque cruentis
 Pulsat inane solum, saevaque ita voce precatur:
 Dî fontes animas, angustaque Tartara poenis
 Qui regitis, tuque umbrifero Styx livida fundo,
 Quam video, multumque mihi consueta vocari
 Annue Tisiphone, perversaque vota secunda, 85
 Si bene quid merui, si me de matre cadentem
 Fovisti gremio, et trajectum vulnere plantas
 Firmasti; si stagna peti Cyrrhaea bicorni 90
 Interfusa jugo, possem cum degere falso
 Contentus Polybo, trifidaque in Phocidos arce
 Longaevum implicui regem, secuique tremantis
 Ora senis, dum quaero patrem: si Sphingos iniquae
 Callidus ambages, te praemonstrante, resolvi;
 Si dulces Furias, et lamentabile matris 95

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 133

But while he dwells where not a cheerful ray
Can pierce the darkness, and abhors the day;
The clear reflecting mind presents his sin
In frightful views, and makes it day within;
Returning thoughts in endless circles roll, 75
And thousand furies haunt his guilty soul,
The wretch then lifted up to th' un pitying skies
Those empty orbs from whence he tore his eyes,
Whose wounds, yet fresh, with bloody hands he
strook,

While from his breast these dreadful accents broke. 80

Ye Gods! that o'er the gloomy regions reign,
Where guilty spirits feel eternal pain;
Thou, sable Styx! whose livid streams are roll'd
Thro' dreary coasts, which I tho' blind behold:
Tisiphone, that oft' hast heard my pray'r, 85
Assist, if Oedipus deserve thy care!

If you receiv'd me from Jocasta's womb,
And nurs'd the hope of mischiefs yet to come:

If leaving Polybus, I took my way
To Cyrrha's temple, on that fatal day, 90
When by the son the trembling father dy'd,
Where the three roads the Phocian fields divide:

If I the Sphynx's riddles durst explain,
Taught by thyself to win the promis'd reign:
If wretched I, by baleful Furies led, 95
With monstrous mixture stain'd my mother's bed,

134 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Connubium gavifus inî ; noctemque nefandam
 saepe tuli, natosque tibi (scis ipsa) paravi ;
 Mox avidus poenae digitis caedentibus ultro
 Incubui, miseraque oculos in matrè reliqui : 100
 Exaudi, si digna precor, quaeque ipsa furenti
 Subjiceres : orbum visu regnisque parentem
 Non regere, aut dictis moerentem flectere adorti
 Quos genui, quocunque toro : quin ecce superbi
 (Pro dolor) et nostro jamdudum funere reges,
 Insultant tenebris, gemitusque odere paternos.
 Hisne etiam funestus ego ? et videt ista deorum
 Ignavus genitor ? tu saltem debita vindex 110
 Huc ades, et totos in poenam ordire nepotes.
 Indue quod madidum tabo diadema cruentis
 Unguibus arripui, votisque instincta paternis
 I media in fratres, generis consortia ferro 115
 Diffiliant : da Tartarei regina barathri
 Quod cupiam vidisse nefas, nec tarda sequetur
 Mens juvenum ; modo digna veni, mea pignora nosces.

For hell and thee begot an impious brood,
 And with full lust those horrid joys renew'd;
 Then self-condemn'd to shades of endless night,
 Forc'd from these orbs the bleeding balls of sight; 100
 Oh hear! and aid the vengeance I require,
 If worthy thee, and what thou might'st inspire.
 My sons their old, unhappy fire despise,
 Spoil'd of his kingdom, and depriv'd of eyes;
 Guideless I wander, unregarded mourn, 105
 While these exalt their sceptres o'er my urn;
 These sons, ye Gods! who with flagitious pride
 Insult my darkness, and my groans deride.
 Art thou a Father, unregarding Jove!
 And sleeps thy thunder in the realms above? 110
 Thou Fury, then, some lasting curse entail,
 Which o'er their children's children shall prevail:
 Place on their heads that crown distain'd with gore,
 Which these dire hands from my slain father tore;
 Go! and a parent's heavy curses bear; 115
 Break all the bonds of nature, and prepare
 Their kindred souls to mutual hate and war.
 Give them to dare, what I might wish to see
 Blind as I am, some glorious villany!
 Soon shalt thou find, if thou but arm their hands, 120
 Their ready guilt preventing thy commands:
 Could'st thou some great proportion'd mischief frame,
 They'd prove the father from whose loins they came.

136 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Talia jactanti crudelis Diva severos
 Advertit vultus ; inamoenum forte sedebat
 Cocyton juxta, resolutaque vertice crines,
 Lambere sulfureas permiserat anguibus undas.
 Illicet igne Jovis, lapsisque citatior astris
 Tristibus exiliit ripis, discedit inane 130
 Vulgus et occurfus dominae pavet ; illa per umbras
 Et caligantes animarum exanime campos,
 Taenariae limen petit irremeabile portae.
 Sensit adesse dies ; piceo nox obvia nimbo 135
 Lucentes turbavit equos. procul arduus Atlas
 Horruit, et dubia coelum cervice remisit.
 Arripit extemplo Maleae de valle resurgens 140
 Notum iter ad Thebas : neque enim velocior ullas
 Itque reditque vias, cognataque Tartara mavult.
 Centum illi stantes umbrabant ora ceraistae, 145
 Turba minor diri capitis : sedet intus abactis
 Ferrea lux oculis ; qualis per nubila Phoebes

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 137

The fury heard, while on Cocytus' brink
Her snakes unty'd sulphureous waters drink ; 125

But at the summons roll'd her eyes around,
And snatch'd the starting serpents from the ground.

Not half so swiftly shoots along in air

The gliding light'ning, or descending star.

Thro' crowds of airy shades she wing'd her flight, 130

And dark dominions of the silent night ;

Swift as she pass'd the flitting ghosts withdrew,

And the pale spectres trembled at her view :

To th' iron gates of Ténarus she flies,

There spreads her dusky pinions to the skies. 135

The day beheld, and sick'ning at the sight,

Veil'd her fair glories in the shades of night.

Affrighted Atlas, on the distant shore,

Trembled, and shook the heav'ns and gods he bore.

Now from beneath Malea's airy height 140

Aloft she sprung, and steer'd to Thebes her flight ;

With eager speed the well-known journey took,

Nor here regrets the hell she late forsook.

A hundred snakes her gloomy visage shade,

A hundred serpents guard her horrid head, 145

In her sunk eye-balls dreadful meteors glow :

Such rays from Phœbe's bloody circle flow,

When lab'ring with strong charms, she shoots from
high

A fiery gleam, and reddens all the sky.

Atracea rubet arte labor : suffusa veneno 150

Tenditur, ac sanie gliscit cutis : igneus atro

Ore vapor, quo longa fitis, morbique, famesque,

Et populis mors una venit. riget horrida tergo

Palla et coerulei redeunt in pectore nodi.

Atropos hos, atque ipsa novat Proserpina cultus. 155

Tum geminas quatit illa manus : haec igne rogali

Fulгурat, haec vivo manus aëra verberat hydro.

Ut stetit, abrupta qua plurimus arce Cithaeron

Occurrit coelo, fera sibila crine virenti

Congeminat, signum terris, unde omnis Achæi

Ora maris late, Pelopeiaque regna resultant.

Audiit et medius coeli Parnassus et asper 165

Eurotas, dubiamque iugo fragor impulit Oeten

In latus, et geminis vix fluctibus obstitit Isthmos.

Ipsa suum genitrix, curvo delphine vagantem

Arripuit frenis, gremioque Palaemona preffit.

Atque ea Cadmeo praeceps ubi limine primum 170

Constitit, assuetaque infecit nube penates,

Protinus attoniti fratrum sub pectore motus,

Gentilesque animos subiit furor, aegraque lactis

Invidia, atque parens odii metus : inde regendi

NOTES.

VER, 173.] *Gentilisque animos subiit furor*, seems a better reading than *Gentilesque*. P.

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS 139

Blood stain'd her cheeks, and from her mouth there
came 150

Blue steaming poisons, and a length of flame.

From ev'ry blast of her contagious breath

Famine and drought proceed, and plagues, and death.

A robe obscene was o'er her shoulders thrown,

A dress by Fates and Furies worn alone. 155

She tofs'd her meagre arms ; her better hand

In waving circles whirl'd a fun'ral brand :

A serpent from her left was seen to rear

His flaming crest, and lash the yielding air.

But when the Fury took her stand on high, 160

Where vast Cithæron's top salutes the sky,

A hiss from all the snaky tire went round :

The dreadful signal all the rocks rebound,

And thro' th' Achaian cities send the sound.

Æte, with high Parnassus, heard the voice ; 165

Eurota's banks remurmur'd to the noise ;

Again Leucothoe shook at these alarms,

And press'd Palæmon closer in her arms.

Headlong from thence the glowing Fury springs,

And o'er the Theban palace spreads her wings, 170

Once more invades the guilty dome, and shrouds

Its bright pavilions in a veil of clouds.

Strait with the rage of all their race possess'd,

Stung to the soul, the brothers start from rest,

And all their Furies wake within their breast, 175

140 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Saevus amor : ruptaeque vices, jurisque secundi

Ambitus impatiens, et summo dulcius unum

Stare loco, sociisque comes discordia regnis. 180

Sic ubi delectos per torva armenta juvencos

Agricola imposito sociare affectat aratro :

Illi indignantes quis nondum vomere multo

Ardua nodosos cervix descendit in armos,

In diversa trahunt, atque aequis vincula laxant

Viribus, et vario confundunt limite sulcos :

Haud secus indomitos praeceps discordia fratres 190

Asperat. alterni placuit sub legibus anni

Exilio mutare ducem. sic jure maligno

Fortunam transire jubent, ut sceptrum tenentem

Foedere praecipiti semper novus angeret heres.

Haec inter fratres pietas erat : haec mora pugnae

Sola, nec in regem perduratura secundum.

Et nondum crasso laquearia fulva metallo, 200

Montibus aut alte Graiis effulta nitebant

Atria, congestos satis explicitura clientes.

Book I. THE BAIS OF STATIUS. 141

Their tortur'd minds repining Envy tears,
And Hate, engender'd by suspicious fears;
And sacred Thirst of sway; and all the ties
Of Nature broke; and royal Perjuries:
And impotent Desire to reign alone, 180
That scorns the dull reversion of a throne;
Each would the sweets of sov'reign rule devour,
While Discord waits upon divided pow'r.

As stubborn steers by brawny plowmen broke,
And join'd reluctant to the galling yoke, 185
Alike disdain with servile necks to bear
Th' unwonted weight, or drag the crooked share,
But rend the reins, and bound a diff'rent way,
And all the furrows in confusion lay:
Such was the discord of the royal pair, 190
Whom fury drove precipitate to war.
In vain the chiefs contriv'd a specious way,
To govern Thebes by their alternate sway:
Unjust decree! while this enjoys the state,
That mourns in exile his unequal fate, 195
And the short monarch of a hasty year
Foresees with anguish his returning heir.
Thus did the league their impious arms restrain,
But scarce subsisted to the second reign.

Yet then, no proud aspiring piles were rais'd, 200
No fretted roofs with polish'd metals blaz'd;
No labour'd columns in long order plac'd,
No Grecian stone the pompous arches grac'd;

142 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I

Non impacatis regum advigilantia somnis 209

Pila, nec alterna ferri statione gementes

Excubiae, nec cura mero committere gemmas,

Atque aurum violare cibis, sed nuda potestas

Armavit fratres: pugna est de paupere regno,

Dumque uter angustae squalletia jugera Dirces

Verferet, aut Tyrii folio non altus ovaret

Exulis, ambigitur; periit jus, fasque, bonumque,

Et vitae, mortisque pudor. Quo tenditis iras, 210

Ah miseri? quid si peteretur crimine tanto

Limes uterque poli, quem Sol emissus Eo

Cardine, quem porta vergens prospectat Ibera?

Quasque procul terras obliquo sidere tangit

Avius, aut Borea gelidas, madidive tepentes 215

Igni Noti? quid si Tyriae Phrygiaeve sub unum

Convectentur opes? loca dira, arcelque nefandae

Suffecerè odio, furtisque immanibus emptum est

Oedipodae sedisse loco. Jam forte carebat

Dilatus Polynicis honos, quis tum tibi, faeve, 220

Quis fuit ille dies? vacua cum solus in aula

Respiceres jus omne tuum, cunctosque minores,

Et nusquam par stare caput? Jam murmura serpunt

Plebis Echioniae, tacitumque a principe vulgus

Diffidet, et (qui mos populis) venturus amatur.

Atque aliquis, cui mens humili laesisse veneno

Book. I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 143

No nightly bands in glitt'ring armour wait
Before the sleepless Tyrant's guarded gate; 205

No chargers then were wrought in burnish'd gold,
Nor silver vases took the forming mold :

Nor gems on bowls embols'd were seen to shine,
Blaze on the brims, and sparkle in the wine—

Say, wretched rivals ! what provokes your rage ? 210

Say, to what end your impious arms engage ?

Not all bright Phœbus views in early morn,

Or when his ev'ning beams the west adorn,

When the south glows with his meridian ray,

And the cold north receives a fainter day; 215

For crimes like these, not all those realms suffice,

Were all those realms the guilty victor's prize !

But fortune now (the lots of empire thrown)

Decrees to proud Eteocles the crown :

What joys, oh Tyrant ! swell'd thy soul that day, 220

When all were slaves thou could'st around survey,

Pleas'd to behold unbounded pow'r thy own,

And singly fill a fear'd and envy'd throne !

But the vile Vulgar, ever discontent,

Their growing fears in secret murmurs vent ; 225

Still prone to change, tho' still the slaves of state,

And sure the monarch whom they have, to hate ;

New lords they madly make, then tamely bear,

And softly curse the Tyrants whom they fear.

And one of those who groan beneath the sway 230

Of Kings impos'd, and grudgingly obey,

144 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Summa, nec impositos unquam cervice volenti
Ferre duces : Hancne Ogygiis, ait, aspera rebus 235

Fata tulere vicem? toties mutare timendos,

Alternoque jugo dubitantia subdere colla!

Partiti versant populum fata, manuque

Fortunam fecere levem. semperne vicissim

Exulibus servire dabor? tibi, summe deorum,

Terrarumque sator, fociis hanc addere mentem

Sedit? an inde vertus Thebis extenditur omen,

Ex quo Sidonii nequicquam blanda juvenci

Pondera, Carpatheo jussus sale quaerere Cadmus

Exul Hyanteos invenit regna per agros : 250

Fraternalque acies foetae telluris hiatu,

Augurium, feros dimisit adusque nepotes?

Cernis ut erectum torva sub fronte minetur

Saevior assurgens dempto consorte potestas?

Quas gerit ore minas? quanto premit omnia fastu?

Hicne unquam privatus erit? tamen ille precanti

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 145

(Whom envy to the great and vulgar spight
With scandal arm'd, th' ignoble mind's delight,)
Exclaim'd—O Thebes ! for thee what fates remain,
What woes attend this inauspicious reign ? 235
Must we, alas ! our doubtful necks prepare,
Each haughty master's yoke by turns to bear,
And still to change whom chang'd we still must fear ?
These now controul a wretched people's fate,
These can divide, and these reverse the state : 240
Ev'n Fortune rules no more :—O servile land,
Where exil'd tyrants still by turns command !
Thou fire of Gods and men, imperial Jove !
Is this th' eternal doom decreed above ?
On thy own offspring hast thou fix'd this fate, 245
From the first birth of our unhappy state ;
When banish'd Cadmus, wand'ring o'er the main,
For lost Europa search'd the world in vain,
And fated in Boeotian fields to found
A rising empire on a foreign ground, 250
First rais'd our walls on that ill-omen'd plain,
Where earth-born brothers were by brothers slain ?
What lofty looks th' unrival'd monarch bears !
How all the tyrant in his face appears !
What sullen fury clouds his scornful brow ! 255
Gods ! how his eyes with threatening ardour glow !
Can this imperious lord forget to reign,
Quit all his state, descend, and serve again ?

146 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Mitis, et affatu bonus et patientior aequi, 260

Quid mirum? non solus erat. nos vilis in omnes

Prompta manus casus domino cuicunque parati.

Qualiter hinc gelidus Boreas, hinc nubifer Eurus 265

Vela trahunt, nutat mediae fortuna carinae.

Heu dubio suspensa metu, tolerandaque nullis

Aspera fors populis! hic imperat: ille minatur. 270

At Jovis imperiis rapidi super atria coeli

Lectus concilio divum convenerat ordo

Interiore polo. spatiis hinc omnia juxta,

Primaeque occiduaeque domus, effusa sub omni

Terra atque unda die. mediis sese arduus infert 280

Ipse deis, placido quatiens tamen omnia vultu,

Stellantique locat folio. nec protinus ausi

NOTES.

VER. 281.] *placido quatiens tamen omnia vultu*, is the common reading; I believe it should be *nutu*, with reference to the word *quatiens*. P.

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 147

Yet, who, before, more popularly bow'd?
Who more propitious to the suppliant croud? 260
Patient of right, familiar in the throne?
What wonder then? he was not then alone.

O wretched we, a vile, submissive train,
Fortune's tame fools, and slaves in ev'ry reign!

As when two winds with rival force contend, 265
This way and that, the wav'ring sails they bend,
While freezing Boreas, and black Eurus blow,
Now here, now there, the reeling vessel throw:
Thus on each side, alas! our tott'ring state
Feels all the fury of resistless fate, 270
And doubtful still, and still distracted stands,
While that prince threatens, and while this commands.

And now th' almighty Father of the Gods
Convenes a council in the blest abodes:
Far in the bright recesses of the skies, 275
High o'er the rolling heav'ns, a mansion lies,
Whence, far below, the Gods at once survey
The realms of rising and declining day,
And all th' extended space of earth, and air, and sea. }
Full in the midst, and on a starry Throne, 280
The Majesty of heav'n superior shone;
Serene he look'd, and gave an awful nod,
And all the trembling spheres confess'd the God.
At Jove's assent, the deities around
In solemn state the consistory crown'd. 285

148 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Coelicolae, veniam donec pater ipse sedendi
 Tranquilla jubet esse manu: mox turba vagorum
 Semideûm, et summis cognati nubibus Amnes,
 Et compressa metu servantes murmura Venti,
 Aurea tecta replent; mixta convexa deorum
 Majestate tremunt: radiant majore sereno
 Culmina, et arcano florentes lumine postes. 295
 Postquam jussa quies, filuitque exterritus orbis,
 Incipit ex alto: (grave et immutabile sanctis
 Pondus adest verbis, et vocem fata sequuntur)
 Terrarum delicta, nec exuperabile diris
 Ingenium mortale queror. quonam usque nocentum
 Exigar in poenas? taedet saevire corusco
 Fulmine; jampridem Cyclopum operosa fatiscunt
 Brachia, et Aeoliis defunt incudibus ignes.
 Atque ideo tuleram falso rectore solutos
 Solis equos, coelumque rotis errantibus uri,
 Et Phaëtontaea mundum squallere favilla. 310

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 149

Next a long order of inferior pow'rs
Ascend from hills, and plains, and shady bow'rs :
Those from whose urns the rolling rivers flow ;
And those that give the wand'ring winds to blow :
Here all their rage, and ev'n their murmurs cease, 290
And sacred silence reigns, and universal peace.
A shining synod of majestic Gods
Gilds with new lustre the divine abodes ;
Heav'n seems improv'd with a superior ray,
And the bright arch reflects a double day. 295
The Monarch then his solemn silence broke,
The still creation listen'd while he spoke,
Each sacred accent bears eternal weight,
And each irrevocable word is Fate.

How long shall man the wrath of heav'n defy, 300
And force unwilling vengeance from the sky !
Oh race confed'rate into crimes, that prove
Triumphant o'er th' eluded rage of Jove !
This weary'd arm can scarce the bolt sustain,
And unregarded thunder rolls in vain : 305
Th' o'erlabour'd Cyclops from his task retires ;
Th' Æolian forge exhausted of its fires.
For this, I suffer'd Phœbus' steeds to stray,
And the mad ruler to misguide the day.
When the wide earth to heaps of ashes turn'd, 310
And heav'n itself the wand'ring chariot burn'd.

150 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Nil actum est : neque tu valida quod cuspide late
Ire per illicitum pelago, germane, dedisti.

Nunc geminas punire domos, quâs sanguinis autor
Ipse ego, descendo. Perseos alter in Argos
Scinditur, Aonias fluit hic ab origine Thebas.

Mens cunctis impôsta manet. Quis funera Cadmi
Nesciat ? et toties excitam a sedibus imis 321

Eumenidum bellâsse aciem ? mala gaudia matrum,
Erroresque feros nemorum, et reticenda deorum
Crimina ? vix lucis spatio, vix noctis abactae 325

Enumerare queam mores, gentemque profanam.

Scandere quin etiam thalamos hic impius haeres
Patris, et immeritae gremium incestare parentis

Appetiit, proprios monstro revolutus in ortus.

Ille tamen Superis aeterna piacula solvit,

Projecitque diem : nec jam amplius aethere nostro
Vescitur : at nati (facinus sine more !) cadentes 335

Calcavere oculos. jam jam rata vota tulisti,

Dire senex ; meruere tuae, meruere tenebrae

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 151

For this, my brother of the wat'ry reign
 Releas'd th' impetuous sluices of the main:
 But flames consum'd, and billows rag'd in vain.
 Two races now, ally'd to Jove, offend;
 To punish these, see Jove himself descend.
 The Theban Kings their line from Cadmus trace,
 From godlike Perseus those of Argive race.
 Unhappy Cadmus' fate who does not know,
 And the long series of succeeding woe?
 How oft the Furies, from the deeps of night,
 Arose, and mix'd with men in mortal fight:
 Th' exulting mother, stain'd with filial blood;
 The savage hunter and the haunted wood?
 The direful banquet why should I proclaim,
 And crimes that grieve the trembling Gods to name?
 Ere I recount the sins of these profane,
 The sun would sink into the western main,
 And rising gild the radiant east again.
 Have we not seen (the blood of Laius shed)
 The murd'ring son ascend his parent's bed,
 Thro' violated nature force his way,
 And stain the sacred womb where once he lay?
 Yet now in darkness and despair he groans,
 And for the crimes of guilty fate atones;
 His sons with scorn their eyeless father view,
 Insult his wounds, and make them bleed anew.

152 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Ultorem sperare Jovem. nova fontibus arma
Injiciam regnis, totumque a stirpe revellam 340

Exitiale genus. belli mihi semina sunt

Adraustus focer, et superis adjuncta sinistris

Connubia. Hanc etiam poenis inceslere gentem

Decretum : neque enim arcana de pectore fallax

Tantalus, et faevae periit injuria mensae.

Sic pater omnipotens. Ast illi faucibus dictis,

Flammato versans inopinum corde dolorem,

Talia Juno refert: Mene, o justissime divum,

Me bello certare jubes? scis semper ut arces 350

Cyclopum, magnique Phoroneos inclyta fama

Sceptra viris, opibusque juvem; licet improbus illic

Custodem Phariae, somno letoque juvencae 355

Extinguas, septis et turribus aureus intres.

Mentitis ignosco toris: illam odimus urbem,

Quam vultu confessus adis: ubi conscia magni 360

Signa tori, tonitrus agis, et mea fulmina torques.

Facta luant Thebae: cur hostes eligis Argos? 365

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 153

Thy curse, oh Oedipus, just heav'n alarms,
And sets th' avenging thunderer in arms;
I from the root thy guilty race will tear, 340
And give the nations to the waste of war.
Adrastus soon, with Gods averse, shall join
In dire alliance with the Theban line;
Hence strife shall rise, and mortal war succeed;
The guilty realms of Tantalus shall bleed; 345
Fix'd is their doom; this all-remembering breast
Yet harbours vengeance for the tyrant's feast.
He said; and thus the Queen of heav'n return'd;
(With sudden Grief her lab'ring bosom burn'd)
Must I, whose cares Phoroneus' tow'rs defend, 350
Must I, oh Jove, in bloody wars contend?
Thou know'st those regions my protection claim,
Glorious in arms, in riches, and in fame;
Tho' there the fair Ægyptian heifer fed,
And there deluded Argus slept, and bled; 355
Tho' there the brazen tow'r was storm'd of old,
When Jove descended in almighty gold.
Yet I can pardon those obscurer rapes,
Those bashful crimes disguis'd in borrow'd shapes;
But Thebes, where shining in celestial charms 360
Thou cam'st triumphant to a mortal's arms,
When all my glories o'er her limbs were spread,
And blazing light'nings danc'd around her bed;
Curs'd Thebes the vengeance it deserves, may prove—
Ah why should Argos feel the rage of Jove? 365

154 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Quin age, si tanta est thalami discordia sancti,
 Et Samon, et veteres armis exscinde Mycenae.
 Verte solo Sparten. cur usquam sanguine festo
 Conjugis ara tuae, cumulo cur thuris Eoi
 Laeta calet? melius votis Mareotica sumat
 Coptos, et aerisoni lugentia flumina Nili.
 Quod si prisca luunt autorum crimina gentes,
 Subvenitque tuis fera haec sententia curis; 380
 Percensere aevi senium, quo tempore tandem
 Terrarum furias abolere, et secula retro
 Emendare fat est? jamdudum ab sedibus illis
 Incipe, fluctivaga qua praeterlabitur unda 385
 Sicanos longe relegens Alpheus amores.
 Arcades hic tua (nec pudor est) delubra nefastis
 Imposuere locis: illic Mavortius axis
 Oenomai, Geticoque pecus stabulare sub Aemo
 Dignius: abruptis etiamnum inhumata procorum
 Reliquiis trunca ora rigent. tamen hic tibi templi
 Gratus honos. placet Ida nocens, mentitaque manes

Yet since thou wilt thy sister-queen controul,
 Since still the lust of discord fires thy soul,
 Go, rase my Samos, let Mycene fall,
 And level with the dust the Spartan wall;
 No more let mortals Juno's pow'r invoke, 370
 Her fanes no more with eastern incense smoke,
 Nor victims sink beneath the sacred stroke;
 But to your Isis all my rites transfer,
 Let altars blaze and temples smoke for her:
 For her, thro' Ægypt's fruitful clime renown'd 375
 Let weeping Nilus hear the timbrel sound.
 But if thou must reform the stubborn times,
 Avenging on the sons the father's crimes,
 And from the long records of distant age
 Derive incitements to renew they rage; 380
 Say, from what period then has Jove design'd
 To date his vengeance; to what bounds confin'd?
 Begin from thence; where first Alpheus hides
 His wand'ring stream, and thro' the briny tides 385
 Unmix'd to his Sicilian river glides.
 Thy own Arcadians there the thunder claim,
 Whose impious rites disgrace thy mighty name;
 Who raise thy temples where the chariot stood
 Of fierce Oenomäus, defil'd with blood; 389
 Where once his steeds their savage banquet found,
 And human bones yet whiten all the ground.
 Say, can those honours please; and can'st thou love
 Presumptuous Crete that boasts the tomb of Jove!

156 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Creta tuos. me Tantaleis consistere tectis,
Quae tandem invidia est? belli descecte tumultus,
Et generis miseresce tui. sunt impia late
Regna tibi, melius generos passura nocentes.

Finierat miscens precibus convicia Juno, 400
At non ille gravis, dictis, quanquam aspera, motus
Reddidit haec: Equidem haud rebar te mente secunda
Laturam, quodcunque tuos (licet aequus) in Argos
Consulerem, neque me (detur si copia) fallit
Multa super Thebis Bacchum, ausuramque Dionem
Dicere, sed nostri reverentia ponderis obstat.
Horrendos etenim latices, Stygia aequora fratris
Obtestor, mansurum et non revocabile verum,
Nil fore quo dictis flectar. quare impiger ales 415
Portantes praecede Notos Cyllenia proles:

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 157

And shall not Tantalus's kingdoms share
Thy wife and sister's tutelary care? 395

Reverse, O Jove, thy too severe decree,
Nor doom to war a race deriv'd from thee;
On impious realms and barb'rous Kings impose
Thy plagues, and curse 'em with such sons as those.

Thus, in reproach and pray'r, the Queen ex-
press'd 400

The rage and grief contending in her breast;
Unmov'd remain'd the ruler of the sky,
And from his throne return'd this stern reply.
'Twas thus I deem'd thy haughty soul would bear }
The dire, tho' just, revenge which I prepare 405 }
Against a nation thy peculiar care :

No less Dione might for Thebes contend,
Nor Bacchus less his native town defend,
Yet these in silence see the fates fulfil
Their work, and rev'rence our Superior will. 410

For by the black infernal Styx I swear,
(That dreadful oath which binds the Thunderer)
'Tis fix'd; th' irrevocable doom of Jove;
No force can bend me, no persuasion move.
Haste then, Cyllenius, thro' the liquid air; 415
Go, mount the winds, and to the shades repair;

NOTES.

VER. 399. *with such sons as those.*] Eteocles and Poly-
nices. P.

158 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Aëra per liquidum, regnisque illapsus opacis
 Dic patruo, Superas senior se tollat ad auras
 Læius, extinctum nati quem vulnere, nondum
 Ulterior Lethes accepit ripa profundi 420
 Lego Erebi: ferat haec diro mea iussa nepoti:
 Germanum exilio fretum, Argolicisque tumentem
 Hospitiis, quod sponte cupit, procul impius aula
 Arceat, alternum regni inficiatus honorem:
 Hinc causae irarum: certo reliqua ordine ducam.

Paret Atlantiades dictis genitoris, et inde
 Summa pedum propere plantaribus illigat alis, 430
 Obnubitque comas, et temperat astra galero.
 Tum dextrae virgam inferuit, qua pellere dulces
 Aut suadere iterum fomnos, qua nigra subire 435
 Tartara, et exangues animare assueverat umbras.
 Defiluit; tenuique exceptus inhorruit aura.
 Nec mora, sublimes raptim per inane volatus 440
 Carpit, et ingenti designat nubila gyro.
 Interea patriis olim vagus exul ab oris
 Oedipodionides furto deserta pererrat

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 159

Bid hell's black monarch my commands obey,
And give up Laius to the realms of day,
Whose ghost yet shiv'ring on Coeytus' sand,
Expects its passage to the further strand : 420
Let the pale fire revisit Thebes, and bear
These pleasing orders to the tyrant's ear ;
That, from his exil'd brother, swell'd with pride
Of foreign forces, and his Argive bride,
Almighty Jove commands him to detain 425
The promis'd empire, and alternate reign :
Be this the cause of more than mortal hate :
The rest, succeeding times shall ripen into Fate.

The God obeys, and to his feet applies
Those golden wings that cut the yielding skies. 430
His ample hat his beamy locks o'erspread,
And veil'd the starry glories of his head.
He seiz'd the wand that causes sleep to fly,
Or, in soft slumbers seals the wakeful eye ;
That drives the dead to dark Tartarean coasts, 435
Or back to life compels the wand'ring ghosts.
Thus, thro' the parting clouds, the son of May
Wings on the whistling winds his rapid way ;
Now smoothly steers thro' air his equal flight,
Now springs aloft, and tow'rs th' ethereal height ; 440
Then wheeling down the steep of heav'n he flies,
And draws a radiant circle o'er the skies.

Mean time the banish'd Polynices roves
(His Thebes abandon'd) thro' th' Aonian groves,

160 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Aoniae. jam jamque animis male debita regna 445
 Concipit, et longum signis cunctantibus annum
 Stare gemit. tenet una dies noctesque recurfans
 Cura virum, si quando humilem decedere regno
 Germanum, et semet Thebis, opibusque potitum,
 Cerneret, hac aevum cupiat pro luce pacisci.
 Nunc queriter ceu tarda fugae dispendia: sed mox
 Attollit flatus ducis, et sedisse superbum
 Dejecto se fratre putat. spes anxia mentem 455
 Extrahit, et longo consumit gaudia voto.
 Tunc sedet Inachias urbes, Danaëiaque arva,
 Et caligantes abrupto sole Mycenae,
 Ferre iter impavidum. seu praevia ducit Erynnis,
 Seu fors illa viae, five hac immota vocabat
 Atropos. Ogygiis ululata furoribus antra
 Deferit, et pingues Bacchaeo sanguine colles. 465
 Inde plagam, qua molle sedens in plana Cithaeron
 Porrigitur, lassumque inclinat ad aequora montem,
 Praeterit. hinc arcte scopuloso in limite pendens,
 Infames Scyrone petras, Scyllaeaque rura

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 161

While future realms his wand'ring thoughts delight,
His daily vision and his dream by night; 446
Forbidden Thebes appears before his eye,
From whence he sees his absent brother fly,
With transport views the airy rule his own,
And swells on an imaginary throne. 450
Fain would he cast a tedious age away,
And live out all in one triumphant day,
He chides the lazy progress of the sun,
And bids the year with swifter motion run.
With anxious hopes his craving mind is tost, 455
And all his joys in length of wishes lost.

The hero then resolves his course to bend
Where ancient Danaus' fruitful fields extend,
And fam'd Mycene's lofty tow'rs ascend,
(Where late the sun did Atreus' crimes detest, 460
And disappear'd in horror of the feast.)
And now by chance, by fate, or furies led,
From Bacchus' consecrated caves he fled,
Where the shrill cries of frantic matrons sound,
And Pentheus' blood enrich'd the rising ground. 465
Then sees Cithæron tow'ring o'er the plain,
And thence declining gently to the main.
Next to the bounds of Nisus' realm repairs,
Where treach'rous Scylla cut the purple hairs :
The hanging cliffs of Scyron's rock explores, 470
And hears the murmurs of the different shores :

Purpureo regnata seni, mitemque Corinthon
Linqvit, et in mediis audit duo littora campis.

Jamque per emeriti surgens confinia Phoebi 472

Titanis, late mundo subvecta silenti

Rorifera gelidum tenuaverat aëra biga.

Jam pecudes volucresque tacent; jam somnus avaris
Inserpit curis, pronusque per aëra nutat, 480

Grata laboratae referens oblivia vitæ.

Sed nec puniceo rediturum nubila coelo

Promisere jubar, nec rarefcentibus umbris

Longa repercusso nituere crepuscula Phoëbo.

Densior a terris, et nulli pervia flammæ 486

Subtexit nox atra polos. jam claustra rigentis

Aeoliae percussa sonant, venturaque rauco

Ore minatur hiems, venti transversa frementes

Confligunt, axemque emoto cardine vellunt, 490

Dum coelum sibi quisque rapit. sed plurimus Auster

Inglomerat noctem, et tenebrosa volumina torquet,

Defunditque imbres, sicco quos asper hiatu

Persolidat Boreas. nec non abrupta tremiscunt

Fulgura, et attritus subita face rumpitur aether.

Jam Nemea, jam Taenareis contermina lucis 496

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 163

Passes the strait that parts the foaming seas,
And stately Corinth's pleasing site surveys.

'Twas now the time when Phœbus yields to night,
And rising Cynthia sheds her silver light, 475

Wide, o'er the world in solemn pomp she drew,
Her airy chariot hung with pearly dew;

All birds and beasts lie hush'd; sleep steals away
The wild desires of men, and toils of day,

And brings, descending thro' the silent air, 480
A sweet forgetfulness of human care.

Yet no red clouds, with golden borders gay,
Promise the skies the bright return of day;

No faint reflections of the distant light
Streak with long gleams the scatt'ring shades of night;

From the damp earth impervious vapours rise, 486
Encrease the darkness, and involve the skies.

At once the rushing winds with roaring sound
Burst from th' Æolian caves, and rend the ground,

With equal rage their airy quarrel try, 490
And win by turns the kingdom of the sky:

But with a thicker night black Auster shrouds
The heav'ns, and drives on heaps the rolling clouds,

From whose dark womb a rattling tempest pours,
Which the cold north congeals to haily show'rs. 495

From pole to pole the thunder roars aloud,
And broken light'nings flash from ev'ry cloud.

164 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Arcadiae capita alta madent : ruit agmine facto
 Inachus, et gelidas surgens Erafinus ad Arctos.
 Pulverulenta prius, calcandaque flumina nullae
 Aggeribus tenuere morae, stagnoque refusa est
 Funditus, et veteri spumavit Lerna veneno.
 Frangitur omne nemus ; rapiunt antiqua procellae
 Brachia sylvarum, nullisque aspecta per aevum
 Solibus umbrosi patuere aestiva Lycae.
 Ille tamen modo saxa jugis fugientia ruptis 510
 Miratur, modo nubigenas e montibus amnes
 Aure pavens, passimque insano turbine raptas
 Pastorum pecorumque domos. non segnius amens,
 Incertusque viae, per nigra silentia, vastum
 Haurit iter : pulsat metus undique, et undique frater.
 Ac velut hiberno deprensus navita ponto, 520
 Cui neque temo piger, neque amico fidere monstrat
 Luna vias, medio coeli pelagique tumultu
 Stat rationis inops : jam jamque aut saxa malignis

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 165

Now smoaks with show'rs the misty mountain-ground,
And floated fields lie undistinguish'd round.

Th'Inachian streams with headlong fury run, 500
And Erasinus rolls a deluge on :

The foaming Lerna swells above its bounds,
And spreads its ancient poisons o'er the grounds :

Where late was dust, now rapid torrents play,
Rush thro' the mounds, and bear the damms away :

Old limbs of trees from crackling forests torn, 506
Are whirl'd in air, and on the winds are born :

The storm the dark Lycæan groves display'd,
And first to light expos'd the sacred shade.

Th' intrepid Theban hears the bursting sky, 510
Sees yawning rocks in massy fragments fly,

And views astonish'd, from the hills afar,
The floods descending, and the wat'ry war,

That, driv'n by storms and pouring o'er the plain,
Sweet herds, and hinds, and houses to the main. 515

Thro' the brown horrors of the night he fled,
Nor knows, amaz'd, what doubtful path to tread ;

His brother's image to his mind appears,
Inflames his heart with rage, and wings his feet with

fears.

So fares a sailor on the stormy main, 520

When clouds conceal Boötes' golden wain,

When not a star its friendly lustre keeps,

Nor trembling Cynthia glimmers on the deeps ;

Expectat submersa vadis, aut vertice acuto
 Spumantes scopulos erectae incurrere prorae:
 Talis opaca legens nemorum Cadmeius heros
 Accelerat, vasto metuenda umbone ferarum,
 Excutiens stabula, et pronò virgulta refringit
 Pectore: dat stimulos animo vis moesta timoris.
 Donec ab Inachiis victa caligine tectis 530
 Emicuit lucem devexa in moenia fundens
 Larissaeus apex, illò spe concitus omni
 Evolat, hinc celsae Junonia templa Prosymnae
 Laevus habet, hinc Herculeo signata vapore 535
 Lernaei stagna atra vadi. tandemque reclusis
 Infertur portis. actutum regia cernit
 Vestibula. hic artus imbri, ventoque rigentes
 Projicit, ignotaeque acclinis postibus aulae
 Invitat tenues ad dura cubilia somnos.

Rex ibi tranquillae medio de limite vitae
 In senium vergens populos Adraustus habebat, 540
 Dives avis, et utroque Jovem de sanguine ducens.
 Hic sexûs melioris inops, sed prole virebat
 Foeminea, gemino natarum pignore fultus.
 Cui Phoebus generos (monstrum exitiabile dictu!
 Mox adaperta fides) aevo ducente canebat
 Setigerumque suum, et fulvum adventare leonem.
 Haec volvens, non, ipse pater, non docte futuri 550

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 167

He dreads the rocks, and shoals, and seas, and skies,
While thunder roars and light'ning round him flies.

Thus strove the chief, on ev'ry side distress'd, 526

Thus still his courage, with his toils increas'd;

With his broad shield oppos'd, he forc'd his way

Tbro' thickest woods, and rous'd the beasts of prey.

Till he beheld, where from Larissa's height 530

The shelving walls reflect a glancing light:

Thither with haste the Theban hero flies;

On this side Lerna's pois'nous water lies,

On that Profymna's grove and temple rise:

He pass'd the gates which then unguarded lay, 535

And to the regal palace bent his way;

On the cold marble, spent with toil, he lies,

And waits till pleasing slumbers seal his eyes.

Adrastus here his happy people sways,

Blest with calm peace in his declining days, 540

By both his parents of descent divine,

Great Jove and Phoebus grac'd his noble line:

Heav'n had not crown'd his wishes with a son,

But two fair daughters heir'd his state and throne.

To him Apollo (wond'rous to relate! 545

But who can pierce into the depths of fate?)

Had sung—"Expect thy sons on Argos' shore,

"A yellow lion and a bristly boar."

This long revolv'd in his paternal breast,

Sate heavy on his heart, and broke his rest; 550

Amphiaraë, vides; etenim vetat autor Apollo.
Tantum in corde sedens aegrescit cura parentis.

Ecce autem antiquam fato Calydonia relinquens 555
Olenius Tydeus (fraterni sanguinis illum
Conscius horror agit) eadem sub nocte sopora
Lustra terit, similesque Notos dequeustus et imbres,
Infusam tergo glaciem, et liquentia nimbis
Ora, comasque gerens, subit uno tegmine, cuius 560
Fusus humo gelida, partem prior hospes habebat.—

Hic primum lustrare oculis, cultusque virorum
Telaque magna vacat, tergo videt huius inanem
Impexis utrinque jubis horrere leonem,
Illius in speciem, quem per Theumesia Tempe
Amphitryoniades fractum juvenilibus armis 570
Ante Cleonaci vestitur praelia monstri.
Terribiles contra setis, ac dente recurvo
Tydea per latos humeros ambire laborant
Exuviae, Calydonis honos. stupet omine tanto 575
Defixus senior, divina oracula Phoebi
Agnoscent, monitusque datos vocalibus antris.

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 169

This, great Amphiaraus, lay hid from thee,
Tho' skill'd in fate, and dark futurity.
The father's care and prophet's art were vain,
For thus did the predicting God ordain.

Lo hapless Tydeus, whose ill-fated hand 555
Had slain his brother, leaves his native land,
And seiz'd with horror in the shades of night,
Thro' the thick deserts headlong urg'd his flight:
Now by the fury of the tempest driv'n,
He seeks a shelter from th' inclement heav'n, 560
'Till, led by fate, the Theban's steps he treads,
And to fair Argos' open court succeeds.

When thus the chiefs from diff'rent lands resort
T'Adraustus' realms, and hospitable court;
The king surveys his guests with curious eyes, 565
And views their arms and habit with surprize.
A lion's yellow skin the Theban wears,
Horrid his mane, and rough with curling hairs;
Such once employ'd Alcides' youthful toils,
Ere yet adorn'd with Nemea's dreadful spoils. 570
A boar's stiff hide, of Calydonian breed,
Oenides' manly shoulders overspread.
Oblique his tusks, erect his bristles stood,
Alive, the pride and terror of the wood.

Struck with the sight, and fix'd in deep amaze, 575
The King th' accomplish'd oracle surveys,
Reveres Apollo's vocal caves, and owns
The guiding Godhead, and his future sons.

Obtutu gelida ora premit, laetusque per artus
 Horror iit. sensit manifesto numine ductos 580
 Affore, quos nexis ambagibus augur Apollo
 Portendi generos, vultu fallente ferarum,
 Ediderat. tunc sic tendens ad sidera palmas;
 Nox, quae terrarum coelique amplexa labores
 Ignea multivago transmittis sidera lapsu,
 Indulgens reparare animum, dum proximus aegris
 Infundat Titan agiles animantibus ortus,
 Tu mihi perplexis quaesitam erroribus ultro
 Advehis alma fidem, veterisque exordia fati
 Detegis. assiste operi, tuaque omina firmes!
 Semper honoratam dimensis orbibus anni
 Te domus ista colet: nigri tibi, Diva, litabunt
 Electa cervice greges, lustraliaque exta
 Lacte novo perfusus edet Vulcanius ignis. 595
 Salve, prisca fides tripodum, obscurique recessus;
 Deprendi, Fortuna, deos. sic fatus; et ambos
 Innectens manibus, tecta ulterioris ad aulae
 Progreditur. canis etiamnum altaribus ignes, 600
 Sopitum cinerem, et tepidi libamina sacri
 Servabant; adolere focos, epulasque recentes
 Instaurare jubet. dictis parere ministri 605
 Certatim accelerant. vario strepit icta tumultu

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 171

O'er all his bosom secret transports reign,
And a glad horror shoots thro' ev'ry vein. 589
To heav'n he lifts his hands, erects his sight,
And thus invokes the silent queen of night.

Goddeſs of ſhades, beneath whoſe gloomy reign
Yon' ſpangled arch glows with the ſtarry train:
You who the cares of heav'n and earth allay, 585
'Till nature quicken'd by th' inſpiring ray
Wakes to new vigour with the riſing day,
Oh thou who freeſt me from my doubtful ſtate,
Long loſt and wilder'd in the maze of Fate!
Be preſent ſtill, oh Goddeſs! in our aid; 590
Proceed, and firm thoſe omens thou haſt made.
We to thy name our annual rites will pay,
And on thy altars ſacrifices lay;
The ſable flock ſhall fall beneath the ſtroke,
And fill thy temples with a grateful ſmoke. 595
Hail, faithful Tripos! hail, ye dark abodes
Of awful Phoebus: I confeſs the Gods!

Thus, ſeiz'd with ſacred fear, the monarch pray'd;
Then to his inner court the gueſts convey'd;
Where yet thin fumes from dying ſparks ariſe, 600
And duſt yet white upon each altar lies,
The relicks of a former ſacrifice.
The King once more the ſolemn rites requires,
And bids renew the feaſts, and wake the fires.
His train obey, while all the courts around 605
With noiſy care and various tumult ſound.

172 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Regia : pars ostro tenues, auroque sonantes
 Emunire toros, altosque inferre tapetas ;
 Pars teretes levare manu, ac disponere mensas :
 Ast alii tenebras et opacam vincere noctem 610
 Aggressi, tendunt auratis vincula lychnis.
 His labor inserto torrere exanguia ferro
 Viscera caesarum pecudum : his, cumulare canistris
 Perdomitam saxo Cererem. laetatur Adrastus
 Obsequio fervere domum. jamque ipse superbis
 Fulgebat fratris, folioque effultus eburno.
 Parte alia juvenes ficcati vulnera lymphis 615
 Discumbunt : simul ora notis foedata tuentur,
 Inque vicem ignoscunt. tunc rex longaevus Acesten
 (Natarum haec altrix, eadem et fidissima custos 620
 Lecta sacrum justae Veneri occultare pudorem)
 Imperat acciri, tacitaque immurmurat aure.
 Nec mora praeceptis ; cum protinus utraque virgo
 Arcano egressae thalamo (mirabile visu)
 Pallados armisonae, pharetrataeque ora Dianae 625
 Aequa ferunt, terrore minus. nova deinde pudori
 Visa virum facies : pariter, pallorque, ruborque
 Purpureas hausere genas : oculique verentes
 Ad sanctum rediere patrem. Postquam ordine mensae
 Victa fames, signis perfectam auroque nitentem
 Iasides pateram famulos ex more poposcit,

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 173

Embroider'd purple clothes the golden beds ;
This slave the floor, and that the table spreads ;
A third dispels the darkness of the night,
And fills depending lamps with beams of light ; 610
Here loaves in canisters are pil'd on high,
And there in flames the slaughter'd victims fly.
Sublime in regal state Adrastus shone,
Stretch'd on rich carpets on his iv'ry throne ;
A lofty couch receives each princely guest ; 615
Around, at awful distance, wait the rest.

And now the king, his royal feast to grace,
Acestis calls, the guardian of his race,
Who first their youth in arts of virtue train'd,
And their ripe years in modest grace maintain'd. 620
Then softly whisper'd in her faithful ear,
And bade his daughters at the rites appear.
When from the close apartments of the night,
The royal nymphs approach divinely bright ;
Such was Diana's, such Minerva's face ; 625
Nor shine their beauties with superior grace,
But that in these a milder charm endears,
And less of terror in their looks appears.
As on the heroes first they cast their eyes,
O'er their fair cheeks the glowing blushes rise, 630
Their downcast looks a decent shame confess'd,
Then on their father's rev'rend features rest.

The banquet done, the monarch gives the sign
To fill the goblet high with sparkling wine,

174 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Qua Danaus libare deis seniorque Phoroneus 635

Affueti. tenet haec operum caelata figuras:

Aureus anguicomam praefecto Gorgona collo

Ales habet. jam jamque vagas (ita visus) in auras

Exilit: illa graves oculos, languentiaque ora

Pene movet; vivoque etiam pallefcit in auro.

Hinc Phrygius fulvis venator tollitur alis: 640

Gargara defidunt surgenti, et Troja recedit.

Stant moesti comites, frustra que sonantia laxant

Ora canes, umbramque petunt, et nubila latrant. 645

Hanc undante mero fundens, vocat ordine cunctos

Coelicolas: Phoebum ante alios, Phoebum omnis ad

aras

Laude ciet comitum, famulumque, evincta pudica

Fronde, manus: cui festa dies, largoque relecti

Thure, vaporatis lucent altaribus ignes. 655

Forfitan, o juvenes, quae sint ea sacra, quibusque

Praecipuum causis Phoebi obtestemur honorem,

Rex ait, exquirunt animi. non inscia fuasit

Relligio: magnis exercita cladibus olim 660

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 179

Which Danaus us'd in sacred rites of old, 635

With sculpture grac'd, and rough with rising gold.

Here to the clouds victorious Perseus flies,

Medusa seems to move her languid eyes,

And, ev'n in gold, turns paler as she dies.

There from the chace Jove's tow'ring eagle bears,

On golden wings, the Phrygian to the stars : 641

Still as he rises in th' ethereal height,

His native mountains lessen to his sight ;

While all his sad companions upward gaze,

Fix'd on the glorious scene in wild amaze ; 645

And the swift hounds, affrighted as he flies,

Run to the shade, and bark against the skies.

This golden bowl with gen'rous juice was crown'd,

The first libations sprinkled on the ground,

By turns on each celestial pow'r they call ; 650

With Phœbus' name resounds the vaulted hall.

The courtly train, the strangers, and the rest,

Crown'd with chaste laurel, and with garlands dress'd,

While with rich gums the fuming altars blaze,

Salute the God in num'rous hymns of praise. 655

Then thus the King : Perhaps, my noble guests,

These honour'd altars, and these annual feasts

To bright Apollo's awful name design'd,

Unknown, with wonder may perplex your mind.

Great was the cause ; our old solemnities 660

From no blind zeal or fond tradition rise ;

176 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Plebs Argiva litant : animos advertite, pandam :
 Postquam coerulei sinuosa volumina monstri,
 Terrigenam Pythona, deus septem orbibus atris
 Amplexum Delphos, squamisque annosa terentem
 Robora ; Castaliis dum fontibus ore trifulco
 Fusus hiat, nigro sitiens alimenta veneno,
 Perculit, absumptis numerosa in vulnera telis,
 Cyrrhaeique dedit centum per jugera campi
 Vix tandem explicitum, nova deinde piacula caedi
 Perquirens, nostri tecta haud opulenta Crotopi
 Attingit. huic primis, et pubem ineuntibus annis, 670
 Mira decore pio, servabat nata penates
 Intemerata toris. felix, si Delia nunquam
 Furta, nec occultum Phoebo sociasset amorem.
 Namque ut passa deum Nemeaei ad fluminis undam,
 Bis quinos plena cum fronte resumeret orbes
 Cynthia, fidereum Latonae foeta nepotem
 Edidit : ac poenae metuens (neque enim ille coactis
 Donasset thalamis veniam pater) avia rura
 Eligit : ac natum septa inter ovilia furtim
 Montivago pecoris custodi mandat alendum.

Non tibi digna, puer, generis cunabula tanti 680
 Gramineos dedit herba toros, et vimine querno

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 177

But fav'd from death, our Argives yearly pay
These grateful honours to the God of Day.

When by a thousand darts the Python slain
With orbs unroll'd lay cov'ring all the plain, 665
(Transfix'd as o'er Castalia's streams he hung,
And suck'd new poisons with his triple tongue)
To Argos' realms the victor god resorts,
And enters old Crotopus' humble courts.

This rural prince one only daughter blest, 670
That all the charms of blooming youth possess'd;
Fair was her face, and spotless was her mind,
Where filial love with virgin sweetness join'd.
Happy! and happy still she might have prov'd,
Were she less beautiful, or less below'd! 675

But Phœbus lov'd, and on the flow'ry side
Of Nemœa's stream, the yielding fair enjoy'd:
Now, ere ten moons their orb with light-adorn,
Th' illustrious offspring of the God was born,
The Nymph, her father's anger to evade, 680
Retires from Argos to the sylvan shade;
To woods and wilds the pleasing burden bears,
And trusts her infant to a shepherd's cares.

How mean a fate, unhappy child! is thine?
Ah how unworthy those of race divine? 685
On flow'ry herbs in some green covert laid,
His bed the ground, his canopy the shade,

178 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Texta domus: clausa arbutei sub cortice libri
 Membra tepent, suadetque leves cava fistula somnos,
 Et pecori commune solum. sed fata nec illum
 Concessere larem: viridi nam cespite terrae
 Projectum temere, et patulo coelum ore trahentem
 Dira canum rabies morfu depasta cruento 695
 Disjicit. hic vero attonitas ut nuntius aures
 Matris adit, pulsi ex animo genitorque, pudorque,
 Et metus. ipsa ultro saevis plangoribus amens
 Tecta replet, vacuumque ferens velamine pectus 700
 Occurrit confessa patri. nec motus, at atro
 Imperat, infandum! cupientem occumbere leto.

Sero memor thalami, moestae solatia morti,
 Phoebe, paras. monstrum infandis Acheronte sub imo
 Conceptum Eumenidum thalamis, cui virginis ora,
 Pectoraque, aeternum stridens a vertice surgit
 Et ferrugineam frontem discriminat anguis:
 Haec tam dira lues nocturno squallida passu 710
 Illabi thalamis, animasque a stirpe recentes
 Abripere altricum gremiis, morfuque cruento
 Devesci et multum patrio pinguescere luctu.

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 179

He mixes with the bleating lambs his cries,
While the rude swain his rural music tries
To call soft slumbers on his infant eyes. 690
Yet ev'n in those obscure abodes to live,
Was more, alas! than cruel fate would give,
For on the grassy verdure as he lay,
And breath'd the freshness of the early day,
Devouring dogs the helpless infant tore, 695
Fed on his trembling limbs, and lapp'd the gore.
Th' astonish'd mother, when the rumour came,
Forgets her father, and neglects her fame,
With loud complaints she fills the yielding air,
And beats her breast, and rends her flowing hair; 700
Then wild with anguish to her fire she flies:
Demands the sentence, and contented dies.

But touch'd with sorrow for the dead too late,
The raging God prepares t' avenge her fate.
He sends a monster, horrible and fell, 705
Begot by furies in the depths of hell.
The pest a virgin's face and bosom bears;
High on a crown a rising snake appears,
Guards her black front, and hisses in her hairs:
About the realm she walks her dreadful round, 710
When night with sable wings o'erspreads the ground,
Devours young babes before their parents eyes,
And feeds and thrives on public miseries.

180 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Haud tulit armorum praestans animique Choroebus;
 Seque ultro lectis juvenum, qui robore primi
 Famam posthabita faciles extendere vita,
 Obtulit, illa novas ibat populata penates
 Portarum in bivio, lateri duo corpora parvum
 Dependent, et jam unca manus vitalibus haeret,
 Ferratique ungues tenero sub corde tepescunt.
 Obvius huic latus omne virum stipante corona,
 It juvenis, ferrumque ingens sub pectore diro
 Condidit; atque iras animae mucrone corusco
 Scrutatus latebras, tandem sua monstra profundo
 Reddit habere Jovi. juvat ire, et visere juxta
 Liventes in morte oculos, uterique nefandam
 Proluviem, et crasso squalentia pectora tabo,
 Qua nostrae cecidere animae. stupet Inacha pubes,
 Magnaque post lachrymas etiamnum gaudia pallent.
 Hi trabibus duris, solatia vana dolori,
 Proterere exanimes artus, asprosq; molares
 Deculcare genis; nequit iram explere potestas.
 Illam et nocturno circum stridore volantes
 Impastae fugistis aves, rabidamque canum vim,
 Oraque sicca ferunt trepidorum inhiasse luporum.
 Saevior in miseros fatis ultricis ademptae
 Delius infurgit, summaque biverticis umbra
 Parnassi residens, arcu crudellis iniquo
 Pestifera arma jacet, camposque, et celsa Cyclopum

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 181

But gen'rous rage the bold Chorcebus warms,
 Chorcebus, fam'd for virtue, as for arms; 715
 Some few like him, inspir'd with martial flame,
 Thought a short life well lost for endless fame.
 These, where two ways in equal parts divide,
 The direful monster from afar descry'd;
 Two bleeding babes depending at her side; 720
 Whose panting vitals, warm with life, she draws,
 And in their hearts embrues her cruel claws.
 The youths surround her with extended spears;
 But brave Chorcebus in the front appears;
 Deep in her breast he plung'd his shining sword, 725
 And hell's dire monster back to hell restor'd.
 Th' Inachians view the slain with vast surprize,
 Her twisting volumes and her rolling eyes,
 Her spotted breast, and gaping womb embru'd,
 With livid poison, and our childrens blood. 730
 The croud in stupid wonder fix'd appear,
 Pale ev'n in joy, nor yet forget to fear.
 Some with vast beams the squalid corpse engage,
 And weary all the wild efforts of rage.
 The birds obscene, that nightly flock'd to taste, 735
 With hollow screeches fled the dire repast;
 And rav'nous dogs, allur'd by scented blood,
 And starving wolves, ran howling to the wood.

But fir'd with rage, from cleft Parnassus' brow
 Avenging Phoebus bent his deadly bow, 740
 And hissing flew the feather'd fates below:

182 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Tecta, superjecto nebularum incendit amictu.

Labuntur dulces animae : Mors fla sororum

Ense metit, captamque tenens fert manibus urbem.

Quaerenti quae causa duci, quis ab aethere laevus

Ignis, et in totum regnaret Sirius annum,

Idem autor Pæan rursus jubet ire cruento

Inferias monstro juvenes, qui caede potiti. 750

Fortunate animi, longumque in saecula digne

Promeriture diem ! non tu pia degener arma

Occulis, aut certae trepidas occurrere morti.

Cominus ora ferens, Cyrrhaei in limine templi 755

Constitit, et sacras ita vocibus asperat iras :

Non missus, Thymbraee, tuos supplexve penates

Advenio : mea me pietas, et conscia virtus

Has egere vias. ego sum qui caede subegi,

Phoebe, tuum mortale nefas ; quem nubibus atris,

Et squallente die, nigra quem tabe sinistri

Quaeris, inique, polli. quod si monstra effera magnis

Cara adeo Superis, jacturaque vilior orbis, 766

Mors hominum, et saevo tanta inclementia coelo est ;

A night of sultry clouds involv'd around
The tow'rs, the fields, and the devoted ground :
And now a thousand lives together fled,
Death with his scythe cut off the fatal thread, 745
And a whole province in his triumph led.

But Phœbus, ask'd why noxious fires appear,
And raging Sirius blasts the sickly year;
Demands their lives by whom his monster fell,
And dooms a dreadful sacrifice to hell. 750

Bless'd be thy dust, and let eternal fame
Attend thy Manes, and preserve thy name,
Undaunted hero ! who divinely brave,
In such a cause disdain'd thy life to save ;
But view'd the shrine with a superior look, 755
And its upbraided Godhead thus bespoke :

With piety, the soul's securest guard,
And conscious virtues still its own reward,
Willing I come, unknowing how to fear ;
Nor shalt thou, Phœbus, find a suppliant here. 760
Thy monster's death to me was ow'd alone,
And 'tis a deed too glorious to disown.
Behold him here, for whom, so many days,
Impervious clouds conceal'd thy fullen rays ;
For whom, as Man no longer claim'd thy care, 765
Such numbers fell by pestilential air !
But if th' abandon'd race of human kind
From Gods above no more compassion find ;

184 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Quid meruere Argi? me, me, divum optime, solum
 Objecisse caput fatis praestabit. an illud
 Lene magis cordi, quod desolata domorum
 Tecta vides? ignique datis cultoribus omnis
 Lucet ager? sed quid fando tua tela manusque
 Demoror? expectant matres, supremaque fundunt
 Vota mihi. satis est: merui, ne parcere velles.
 Proinde move pharetras, arcusque intende sonoros,
 Insignemque animam leto demitte: sed illum
 Pallidus Inachiis qui desuper imminet Argis,
 Dum morior, depelle globum. Fors aequa merentes
 Respicit. ardentem tenuit reverentia caedis.
 Latoïden, tristemque viro summissus honorem
 Largitur vitae. nostro mala nubila coelo
 Diffugiunt. at tu stupefacti a limine Phoebi
 Exoratus abis. inde haec statata sacra quotannis
 Solemnes recolunt epulae, Phoebeiaque placat
 Tempa novatus honos: has forte invisis aras.
 Vos quae progenies? quanquam Calydonius Oeneus
 Et Parthaoniæ (dudum si certus ad aures
 Clamor iit) tibi jura domus; tu pande quis Argos
 Advenias? quando haec variis sermonibus hora est,

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 185

If such inclemency in heav'n can dwell,
 Yet why must unoffending Argos feel? 770
 The vengeance due to this unlucky steel?
 On me, on me, let all thy fury fall,
 Nor err from me, since I deserve it all:
 Unless our desert cities please thy sight,
 Or fun'ral flames reflect a grateful light. 775
 Discharge thy shafts, this ready bosom rend,
 And to the shades a ghost triumphant send;
 But for my Country let my fate atone,
 Be mine the vengeance, as the crime my own.
 Merit distress'd, impartial heav'n relieves: 780
 Unwelcome life relenting Phœbus gives;
 For not the vengeful pow'r, that glow'd with rage,
 With such amazing virtue durst engage.
 The clouds dispers'd, Apollo's wrath expir'd,
 And from the won'dring God th' unwilling youth re-
 tir'd. 785
 Thence we these altars in his temple raise,
 And offer annual honours, feasts, and praise;
 These solemn feasts propitious Phœbus please:
 These honours, still renew'd, his antient wrath appease.
 But say, illustrious guest (adjoin'd the King) 790
 What name you bear, from what high race you spring?
 The noble Tydeus stands confess'd, and known
 Our neighbour Prince, and heir of Calydon.
 Relate your fortunes, while the friendly night
 And silent hours to various talk invite. 795

186 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Dejecit moestos extemplo Ismenius heros
 In terram vultus, taciteque ad Tydea laesum
 Obliquare oculos. tum longa silentia movit:
 Non super hos divum tibi sum quaerendus honores
 Unde genus, quae terra mihi: quis defluat ordo
 Sanguinis antiqui, piget inter sacra fateri.
 Sed si praecipitant miserum cognoscere curae,
 Cadmus origo patrum, tellus Mavortia Thebae,
 Et genetrix Jocasta mihi, tum motus Adrastus
 Hospitiis (agnovit enim) quid nota recondis?
 Scimus, ait; nec sic aversum fama Mycenis 810
 Volvit iter. regnum, et furias, oculosque pudentes
 Novit, et Arctoïs si quis de solibus horret,
 Quique bibit Gangem, aut nigrum occasibus intrat
 Oceanum, et si quos incerto littore Syrtes 815
 Destituunt, ne perge queri, casusque priorum
 Annumerare tibi. nostro quoque sanguine multum
 Erravit pietas. nec culpa nepotibus obstat. 820

Book L. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 187

The Theban bends on earth his gloomy eyes,
Confus'd, and sadly thus at length replies:
Before these altars how shall I proclaim
(Oh gen'rous prince) my nation, or my name,
Or thro' what veins our ancient blood has roll'd? 800
Let the sad tale for ever rest untold!
Yet if propitious to a wretch unknown,
You seek to share in sorrows not your own;
Know then from Cadmus I derive my race,
Jocasta's son, and Thebes my native place. 805
To whom the King (who felt his gen'rous breast
Touch'd with concern for his unhappy guest)
Replies:—Ah why forbears the son to name
His wretched father known too well by fame?
Fame, that delights around the world to stray, 810
Scorns not to take our Argos in her way.
Ev'n those who dwell where suns at distance roll,
In northern wilds, and freeze beneath the pole;
And those who tread the burning Libyan lands,
The faithless Syrtes and the moving sands; 815
Who view the western sea's extremest bounds,
Or drink of Ganges in their eastern grounds;
All these the woes of Oedipus have known,
Your fates, your furies, and your haunted town.
If on the sons the parents crimes descend, 820
What Prince from those his lineage can defend?

Tu modo diffimilis rebus mereare secundis

Excusare tuos: sed jam temone supino

Languet Hyperboreae glacialis portitor urae. 825

Fundite vina focis, servatoremque parentum

Latoiden votis iterumque iterumque canamus.

Phoebe parens, seu te Lyciae Pataraea nivolis

Exercent dumeta jugis, seu rore pudico 830

Castaliae flavos amor est tibi mergere crines;

Seu Trojam Thymbraeus habes, ubi fama volentem

Ingratis Phrygios humeris subiisse molares:

Seu juvat Aegaeum feriens Latonius umbra

Cynthus, et assiduam pelago non quaerere Delon;

Tela tibi, longaeque feros lentandus in hostes

Arcus, et aetherii dono cessere parentes

Aeternum florere genas. tu doctus iniquas

Parcarum praenôsse minas, fatumque quod ultra est,

Et summo placitura Jovi. quis letifer annus, 840

Bella quibus populis, mutant quae sceptrâ cometæ.

Tu Phryga submittis citharae. tu matris honori

Ferrigenam Tityon Stygiis extendis arenis.

Te viridis Python, Thebanaque mater ovantem,

Or think of Ganges in their eastern grounds;

All track the woe of Ganges have known;

Your fate, your doom, and your destined town

It is the loss the parent which deplores;

What Python now shall in his coils detain?

Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS? 139

Be this thy comfort, that 'tis thine t' efface
With virtuous acts thy ancestors disgrace,
And be thyself the honour of thy race.

But see! the stars begin to steal away, 825

And shine more faintly at approaching day;

Now pour the wine; and in your tuneful days

Once more resound the great Apollo's praise.

Oh father Phœbus! whether Lycia's coast 829

And snowy mountain, thy bright presence boast;

Whether to sweet Castalia thou repair,

And bathe in silver dews thy yellow hair;

Or pleas'd to find fair Delos float no more,

Delight in Cynthus, and the shady shore;

Or chuse thy seat in Ilion's proud abodes, 835

The shining structures rais'd by lab'ring Gods:

By thee the bow and mortal shafts are born:

Eternal charms thy blooming youth adorn:

Skill'd in the laws of secret fate above,

And the dark counsels of almighty Jove, 840

'Tis thine the seeds of future war to know,

The change of Sceptres, and impending woe;

When direful meteors spread thro' glowing air

Long trails of light, and shake their blazing hair.

Thy rage the Phrygian felt, who durst aspire 845

T' excel the music of thy heav'nly lyre;

Thy shafts aveng'd lewd Tityus' guilty flame,

Th' immortal victim of my mother's fame;

190 STATII THEBAIDOS LIB. I.

Horruit in pharetris. ultrix tibi torva Megaera 850

Jejunum Phlegyam subter cava saxa jacentem

Aeterno premit accubitu, dapibusque profanis

Instimulat: sed mista famem fastidia vincunt.

Adsis o, memor hospitij, Junoniaque arva 855

Dexter ames; seu te roseum Titana vocari

Gentis Achaemeniae ritu, seu praestat Ofirin

Frugiferum, seu Persei sub rupibus antri

Indignata sequi torquentem cornua Mitram.

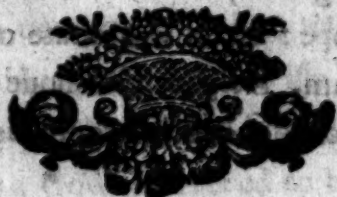


Book I. THEBAIS OF STATIUS. 191

Thy hand slew Python, and the dame who lost
Her num'rous offspring for a fatal boast. 850

In Phlegyas' doom thy just revenge appears,
Condemn'd to Furies and eternal fears;
He views his food, but dreads, with lifted eye,
The mouldring rock that trembles from on high.

Propitious hear our pray'r, O Pow'r divine! 855
And on thy hospitable Argos shine,
Whether the style of Titan please thee more,
Whose purple rays th' Achæmenes adore;
Or great Osiris, who first taught the swain
In Pharian fields to sow the golden grain; 860
Or Mitra, to whose beams the Persian bows,
And pays, in hollow rocks, his awful vows;
Mitra, whose head the blaze of light adorns,
Who grasps the struggling heifer's lunar horns.



DRYOPÉ

IN

ARBOREM.

DIXIT: et, admonitu veteris commota mi-
nistrae,

Ingemuit; quam sic nurus est adfata dolentem:

Te tamen, o genitrix, alienae sanguine vestro

Rapta movet facies. quid si tibi mira sororis

Fata meae referam? quamquam lacrymaeque dolor-
que

Impediunt, prohibentque loqui. fuit unica matri

(Me pater ex alia genuit) notissima forma 10

Oechalidum Dryope: quam virginitate carentem,

Vimque Dei passam, Delphos Delonque tenentis,

Excipit Andraemon; et habetur conjuge felix.

NOTES.

- DRYOPE.] Upon occasion of the death of Hercules, his Mother Alcmena recounts her misfortunes to Iole, who answers with a relation of those of her own family, in par-

(193)

THE
F A B L E
O F
D R Y O P E,
From the NINTH BOOK of
OVID'S METAMORPHOSES.

SHE said, and for her lost Galanthis sighs,
When the fair Consort of her son replies.
Since you a servant's ravish'd form bemoan,
And kindly sigh for sorrows not your own,
Let me (if tears and grief permit) relate 5
A nearer woe, a sister's stranger fate.
No nymph of all Æchalia could compare
For beauteous form with Dryope the fair,
Her tender mother's only hope and pride,
(Myself the offspring of a second bride.) 10
This Nymph compress'd by him who rules the day,
Whom Delphi and the Delian isle obey,
Andræmon lov'd ; and, bless'd in all those charms
That pleas'd a God, succeeded to her arms.

NOTES

Particular the Transformation of her sister Dryope, which is
the subject of the ensuing Fable. P.

VOL. II.

N

194 DRYOPE IN ARBOREM.

Est lacus, acclivi devexo margine formam 15
 Littoris efficiens: summum myrteta coronant.
 Venerat huc Dryope fatorum nescia; quoque
 Indignere magis, Nymphis latura coronas.
 Inque sinu puerum, qui nondum impleverat annum,
 Dulce ferebat onus; tepidique ope lactis alebat. 20
 Haud procul a stagno, Tyrios imitata colores,
 In spem baccarum florebat aquatica lotos.
 Carpserrat hinc Dryope, quos oblectamina nato 25
 Porrigeret, flores: et idem factura videbar;
 Namque aderam. vidi guttas e flore cruentas
 Decidere; et tremulo ramos horrore moveri. 30
 Scilicet, ut referunt tardi nunc denique agrestes,
 Lotis in hanc Nymphæ, fugiens obscoena Priapi,
 Contulerat versos, servato nomine, vultus.
 Nescierat soror hoc; quæ cum perterrita retro 35
 Ire, et adoratis vellet discedere Nymphis,
 Haeserunt radice pedes, convellere pugnat: 40

FABLE OF DRYOPE. 195

A lake there was, with shelving banks around, 15
 Whose verdant summit fragrant myrtles crown'd.
 These shades, unknowing of the fates, she sought,
 And to the Naiads flow'ry garlands brought;
 Her smiling babe (a pleasing charge) she prest
 Within her arms, and nourish'd at her breast. 20
 Not distant far a watry Lotos grows,
 The spring was new, and all the verdant boughs
 Adorn'd with blossoms promis'd fruits that vie
 In glowing colours with the Tyrian dye:
 Of these she crop'd to please her infant son, 25
 And I myself the same rash act had done:
 But lo! I saw, (as near her side I stood,)
 The violated blossoms drop with blood;
 Upon the tree I cast a frightful look;
 The trembling tree with sudden horror shook. 30
 Lotis the nymph (if rural tales be true)
 As from Priapus' lawless lust she flew,
 Forsook her form; and fixing here became
 A flow'ry plant, which still preserves her name.

This change unknown, astonished at the sight 35
 My trembling sister strove to urge her flight:
 And first the pardon of the nymphs implor'd
 And those offended sylvan pow'rs ador'd:
 But when she backward would have fled, she found
 Her stiff'ning feet were rooted in the ground: 40

196 DRYOPE IN ARBOREM.

Nec quidquam, nisi summa, movet. succrescit ab imo,
Totaque paulatim lentus premit inguina cortex.

Ut vidit, conata manu laniare capillos,
Fronde manum implevit, frondes caput omne tene-
bant. 45

At puer Amphissos (namque hoc avus Eurytus illi
Addiderat nomen) materna rigescere sentit

Ubra : nec sequitur ducentem lacteus humor. 50

Spectatrix aderam fati crudelis ; opemque

Non poteram tibi ferre, soror : quantumque valebam,

Crescentem truncum ramosque amplexa, morabar :

Et (fateor) volui sub eodem cortice condi.

Ecce vir Andraemon, genitorque miserrimus, adsunt;

Et quaerunt Dryopen : Dryopen quaerentibus illis

Ostendi loton. tepido dant oscula ligno : 60

Adfusiue suae radicibus arboris haerent.

Nil nisi jam faciem, quod non foret arbor, habebas,

Cara soror. lacrymae verso de corpore factis

Irrorant foliis : ac, dum licet, oraque praestant 65

Vocis iter, tales effundit in aëra questus :

FABLE OF DRYOPE. 197

In vain to free her fasten'd feet she strove,
 And, as she struggles, only moves above;
 She feels th' encroaching bark around her grow
 By quick degrees, and cover all below:
 Surpriz'd at this, her trembling hand she heaves 45
 To rend her hair; her hand is fill'd with leaves:
 Where late was hair the shooting leaves are seen
 To rise, and shade her with a sudden green.
 The child-Amphissus, to her bosom prest,
 Perceiv'd a colder and a harder breast, 50
 And found the springs, that ne'er 'till then deny'd
 Their milky moisture, on a sudden dry'd.
 I saw, unhappy! what I now relate,
 And stood the helpless witness of thy fate,
 Embrac'd thy boughs, thy rising bark delay'd, 55
 There wish to grow, and mingle shade with shade.

Behold Andræmon and th' unhappy fire
 Appear, and for their Dryope enquire;
 A springing tree for Dryope they find,
 And print warm kisses on the panting rind. 60
 Prostrate, with tears their kindred plant bedew,
 And close embrace as to the roots they grew.
 The face was all that now remain'd of thee,
 No more a woman, nor yet quite a tree;
 Thy branches hung with humid pearls appear, 65
 From ev'ry leaf distills a trickling tear,

198 DRYOPE IN ARBOREM.

Si qua fides miseris, hoc me per numina juro
 Non meruisse nefas. patior sine crimine poenam. 70
 Viximus innocuae : si mentior, arida perdam,
 Quas, habeo, frondes ; et caesa securibus urar. 75
 Hunc tamen infantem maternis demite ramis,
 Et date nutrici ; nostraque sub arbore saepe
 Lac facitote bibat ; nostraque sub arbore ludat.
 Cumque loqui poterit, matrem facitote salutet, 80
 Et tristis dicat, Latet hoc sub stipite mater.
 Stagna tamen timeat ; nec carpat ab arbore flores :
 Et frutices omnes corpus putat esse Dearum.
 Care, vale, conjux, et tu germana, paterque !
 Quis siqua est pietas, ab acutae vulnere falcis ; 90
 A pecoris morfu frondes defendite nostras.
 Et quoniam mihi fas ad vos incumbere non est,

FABLE OF DRYOPE. 199

And strait a voice, while yet a voice remains,
Thus thro' the trembling boughs in sighs complains :

If to the wretched any faith be giv'n,
I swear by all th' unpitying pow'rs of heav'n, 70

No wilful crime this heavy vengeance bred ;

In mutual innocence our lives we led :

If this be false, let these new greens decay,

Let sounding axes lop my limbs away,

And crackling flames on all my honours prey. 75

But from my branching arms this infant bear,

Let some kind nurse supply a mother's care :

And to his mother let him oft be led,

Sport in her shades, and in her shades be fed ;

Teach him, when first his infant voice shall frame 80

Imperfect words, and lisp his mother's name,

To hail this tree, and say with weeping eyes,

Within this plant my hapless parent lies :

And when in youth he seeks the shady woods,

Oh ! let him fly the crystal lakes and floods, 85

Nor touch the fatal flow'rs ; but, warn'd by me,

Believe a goddess shrin'd in ev'ry tree.

My fire, my sister, and my spouse, farewell !

If in your breasts or love or pity dwell,

Protect your plant, nor let my branches feel

The browsing cattle or the piercing steel. 90

Farewel ! and since I cannot bend to join

My lips to yours, advance at least to mine.

200 DRYOPE IN ARBOREM.

Erigite huc artus, et ad oscula nostra venite, 95
 Dum tangi possunt, parvumque attollite natum.
 Plura loqui nequeo. nam jam per candida mollis
 Colla liber serpit; summoque cacumine condor,
 Ex oculis removete manus. sine munere vestro
 Contegat inductus morientia lumina cortex.
 Desierant simul ora loqui, simul esse: diuque 100
 Corpore mutato rami caluere recentes.



FABLE OF DRY OPE. 201

My son, thy mother's parting kiss receive,
While yet thy mother has a kiss to give. 95

I can no more; the creeping rind invades
My closing lips, and hides my head in shades:
Remove your hands, the bark shall soon suffice
Without their aid to seal these dying eyes.

She ceas'd at once to speak, and ceas'd to be; 100
And all the nymph was lost within the tree;
Yet latent life thro' her new branches reign'd,
And long the plant a human heat retain'd.



VERTUMNUS

ET

POMONA.

REGE sub hoc Pomona fuit : qua nulla Latinas
 Inter Hamadryadas coluit solertius hortos,
 Nec fuit arborei studiosior altera foetûs :
 Unde tenet nomen. non sylvas illa, nec amnes ; 5
 Rus amat, et ramos felicia poma ferentes.
 Nec jaculo gravis est, sed adunca dextera falce : 10
 Qua modo luxuriam premit, et spatiantia passim
 Brachia compescit; fissa modo cortice virgam
 Inferit; et succos alieno praestat alumno.
 Nec patitur sentire sitim: bibulaeque recurvas 15
 Radicis fibras labentibus irrigat undis.
 Hic amor, hoc studium : Veneris quoque nulla cupido.

VERTUMNUS AND POMONA.

From the FOURTEENTH BOOK of
OVID'S METAMORPHOSES.

THE fair Pomona flourish'd in his reign ;
Of all the Virgins of the sylvan train,
None taught the trees a nobler race to bear,
Or more improv'd the vegetable care.
To her the shady grove, the flow'ry field, 5
The streams and fountains, no delights could yield ;
'Twas all her joy the rip'ning fruits to tend,
And see the boughs with happy burthens bend.
The hook she bore instead of Cynthia's spear,
To lop the growth of the luxuriant year, 10
To decent form the lawless shoots to bring,
And teach th' obedient branches where to spring.
Now the cleft rind inserted graffs receives,
And yields an offspring more than nature gives ;
Now sliding streams the thirsty plants renew, 15
And feed their fibres with reviving dew.

These cares alone her virgin breast employ,
Averse from Venus and the nuptial joy.

204 VERTUMNUS ET POMONA.

Vim tamen agrestū metuens, pomaria claudit
 Intus, et accessus prohibet refugitque viriles. 20
 Quid non et Satyri, saltatibus apta juvenus,
 Fecere, et pinu praecincti cornua Panes,
 Sylvanusque suis semper juvenilior annis,
 Quique Deus fures, vel falce, vel inguine terret,
 Ut poterentur ea? sed enim superabat amando 25
 Hos quoque Vertumnus: neque erat felicior illis.
 O quoties habitu duri messoris aristas
 Corbe tulit, verique fuit messoris imago!
 Tempora saepe gerens foeno religata recenti,
 Defectum poterat gramen versasse videri.
 Saepe manu stimulos rigida portabat; ut illum 35
 Jurares fessos modo disjunctis juvencos.
 Falce data frondator erat, vitisque putator:
 Induerat scalas, lecturum poma putares:
 Miles erat gladio, piscator arundine sumta.
 Denique per multas aditum sibi saepe figuras
 Repperit, ut caperet spectatae gaudia formae.

VERTUMNUS AND POMONA. 205

Her private orchards, wall'd on ev'ry side,
To lawless sylvans all access deny'd. 20
How oft the Satyrs and the wanton Fawns,
Who haunt the forests, or frequent the lawns,
The God whose ensign scares the birds of prey,
And old Silenus, youthful in decay,
Employ'd their wiles, and unavailing care, 25
To pass the fences, and surprize the fair?
Like these, Vertumnus own'd his faithful flame,
Like these, rejected by the scornful dame.
To gain her sight a thousand forms he wears:
And first a reaper from the field appears, 30
Sweating he walks, while loads of golden grain
O'ercharge the shoulders of the seeming swain.
Oft o'er his back a crooked scythe is laid,
And wreaths of hay his sun-burnt temples shade:
Oft in his harden'd hand a goad he bears, 35
Like one who late unyok'd the sweating steers.
Sometimes his pruning-hook corrects the vines,
And the loose stragglers to their ranks confines.
Now gath'ring what the bounteous year allows,
He pulls ripe apples from the bending boughs. 40
A soldier now, he with his sword appears;
A fisher next, his trembling angle bears;
Each shape he varies, and each art he tries,
On her bright charms to feast his longing eyes.

206 VERTUMNUS ET POMONA.

Ille etiam picta redimitus tempora mitra, 45
 Innitens baculo, positus ad tempora canis,
 Adsimulavit anum : cultosque intravit in hortos ;
 Pomaque mirata est : Tantoque potentior, inquit.
 Paucaque laudatae dedit oscula ; qualia nunquam
 Vera dedisset anus : glebaque incurva refedit,
 Suspiciens pandos autumnii pondere ramos.
 Ulmus erat contra, spatiosa tumentibus uvis : 60
 Quam socia postquam pariter cum vite probavit ;
 At si staret, ait, coelebs, sine palmite truncus,
 Nil praeter frondes, quare peteretur, haberet.
 Haec quoque, quae juncta vitis requiescit in ulmo,
 Si non nupta foret, terrae adclinata jaceret.
 Tu tamen exemplo non tangeris arboris hujus ;
 Concubitusque fugis ; nec te conjungere curas.
 Atque utinam velles ! Helene non pluribus esset
 Sollicitata procis : nec quae Lapitheia movit
 Proelia, ne conjux timidis audacis Ulyssæi.

VERTUMNUS AND POMONA. 207

A female form at last Vertumnus wears, 45
 With all the marks of rev'rend age appears
 His temples thinly spread with silver hairs;
 Prop'd on his staff, and stooping as he goes,
 A painted mitre shades his furrow'd brows.

The god in this decrepit form array'd, 50
 The gardens enter'd, and the fruit survey'd;
 And "Happy you! (he thus address'd the maid)
 " Whose charms as far all other nymphs out-shine,
 " As other gardens are excell'd by thine!

Then kiss'd the fair; (his kisses warmer grow 55
 Than such as women on their sex bestow.)

Then plac'd beside her on the flow'ry ground,
 Beheld the trees with autumn's bounty crown'd.

An Elm was near, to whose embraces led,
 The curling vine her swelling clusters spread: 60
 He view'd her twining branches with delight,
 And prais'd the beauty of the pleasing sight.

Yet this tall elm, but for his vine (he said)
 Had stood neglected, and a barren shade;
 And this fair vine, but that her arms surround 65
 Her marry'd elm, had crept along the ground.

Ah! beauteous maid, let this example move
 Your mind, averse from all the joys of love.
 Deign to be lov'd, and ev'ry heart subdue!
 What nymph could e'er attract such crouds as you?
 Not she whose beauty urg'd the Centaur's arms, 71
 Ulysses' Queen, nor Helen's fatal charms.

208 VERTUMNUS ET POMONA.

Nunc quoque, cum fugias averferisque petentes,
 Mille proci cupiunt; et semideique deique, 75
 Et quaecunque tenent Albanos numina montes.
 Sed tu, si sapias, si te bene jungere, animumque
 Hanc audire voles, (quae te plus omnibus illis, 80
 Plus quam credis, amo) vulgares rejice taedas:
 Vertumnumque tori socium tibi selige: pro quo
 Me quoque pignus habe. neque enim sibi notior ille
 est,

Quam mihi. nec toto passim vagus errat in orbe.
 Haec loca sola colit; nec, uti pars magna procorum,
 Quam modo vidit, amat. tu primus et ultimus illi
 Ardor eris; solique suos tibi devovet annos.
 Adde, quod est juvenis: quod naturale decoris 90
 Munus habet; formasque apte fingetur in omnes:
 Et, quod erit jussus (jubeas licet omnia) fiet.
 Quid, quod amatis idem? quod, quae tibi poma co-
 luntur,

Primus habet; laetaque tenet tua munera dextra?
 Sed neque jam foetus desiderat arbore demtos,
 Nec, quas hortus alit, cum succis mitibus herbas;

VERTUMNUS AND POMONA. 209

Ey'n now, when silent Scorn is all they gain,
 A thousand court you, tho' they court in vain,
 A thousand sylvans, demigods, and gods, 75
 That haunt our mountains and our Alban woods.
 But if you'll prosper, mark what I advise,
 Whom age, and long experience render wise,
 And one whose tender care is far above
 All that these lovers ever felt of love, 80
 (Far more than e'er can by yourself be guess)
 Fix on Vertumnus, and reject the rest.
 For his firm faith I dare engage my own;
 Scarce to himself, himself is better known.
 To distant lands Vertumnus never roves; 85
 Like you, contented with his native groves;
 Nor at first sight, like most, admires the fair;
 For you he lives; and you alone shall share
 His last affection, as his early care. }
 Besides, he's lovely far above the rest, 90
 With youth immortal, and with beauty blest.
 Add, that he varies ev'ry shape with ease,
 And tries all forms that may Pomona please.
 But what should most excite a mutual flame,
 Your rural cares, and pleasures are the same: 95
 To him your orchards early fruits are due,
 (A pleasing off'ring when 'tis made by you)
 He values these; but yet (alas) complains,
 That still the best and dearest gift remains.

210 VERTUMNUS ET POMONA.

Nec quidquam, nisi te. miserere ardentis: et ipsum,
Qui petit, ore meo presentem crede precari.—

Sic tibi nec vernum nascentia frigus adurat

Poma; nec excutiant rapidi florentia venti. 110

Haec ubi nequicquam formas Deus aptus in omnes,
Edidit; in juvenem rediit: et anilia demit

Iustrumenta sibi: talisque adparuit illi,

Qualis ubi oppositas nitidissima solis imago 115

Evicit nubes, nullaue obstante reluxit.

Vimque parat: sed vi non est opus; inque figura

Capta Dei Nympha est, et mutua vulnera sentit.



VERTUMNUS AND POMONA. 211

Not the fair fruit that on yon branches glows 100
 With that ripe red th' autumnal sun bestows;
 Nor tasteful herbs that in these gardens rise,
 Which the kind soil with milky sap supplies;
 You, only you, can move the God's desire:
 Oh crown so constant and so pure a fire! 105
 Let soft compassion touch your gentle mind;
 Think, 'tis Vertumnus begs you to be kind;
 So may no frost, when early buds appear,
 Destroy the promise of the youthful year;
 Nor winds, when first your florid orchard blows, 110
 Shake the light blossoms from their blasted boughs!

This when the various God had urg'd in vain,
 He straight assum'd his native form again;
 Such, and so bright an aspect now he bears,
 As when thro' clouds th' emerging sun appears, 115
 And thence exerting his resurgent ray,
 Dispels the darkness, and reveals the day.
 Force he prepar'd, but check'd the rash design;
 For when, appearing in a form divine,
 The Nymph surveys him, and beholds the grace 120
 Of charming features, and a youthful face!
 In her soft breast consenting passions move,
 And the warm maid confess'd a mutual love:

IMITATIONS OF ENGLISH POETS.

Done by the AUTHOR in his Youth.

J.
CHAUCER.

WOMEN ben full of Ragerie,
Yet swinken nat fans secrecie.
Thilke moral shall ye understond,
From Schoole-boy's Tale of fayre Ireland :
Which to the Fennes hath him betake,
To filche the gray Ducke fro the Lake.
Right then, there passen by the way
His Aunt, and eke her Daughters tway.
Ducke in his Trowfes hath he hent,
Not to be spied of Ladies gent.
“ But ho ! our Nephew, (crieth one)
“ Ho ! quoth another, Cozen John ;
And stoppen, and lough, and callen out,—
This filly Clerk full low doth lout :

They asken that, and talken this,

15

“Lo here is Coz, and here is Miss.

But, as he glozeth with Speeches soote,

The Ducke fore tickleth his Erse roote :

Fore-piece and buttons all-to-brest,

Forth thrust a white neck, and red crest.

20

Te-he, cry'd Ladies; Clerke nought spake :

Miss star'd; and gray Ducke crieth Quaaake,

“O Moder, Moder, (quoth the daughter)

“Be thilke same thing Maids longer a'ter?

“Bette is to pyne on coals and chalke,

25

“Then trust on Mon, whose yerde can talke.

CH A P T E R



II.

SPENCER.

The ALLEY.

I.

IN ev'ry Town, where Thamis rolls his Tyde,
A narrow Pass there is, with Houses low;
Where ever and anon, the Stream is ey'd,
And many a Boat soft sliding to and fro.
There oft are heard the notes of Infant Woe,
The short thick Sob, loud Scream, and shriller Squall:
How can ye, Mothers, vex your Children so?
Some play, some eat, some cack against the wall,
And as they crouchen low, for bread and butter call.

II.

And on the broken pavement, here and there,
Doth many a stinking sprat and herring lie;
A brandy and tobacco shop is near,
And hens, and dogs, and hogs are feeding by;
And here a sailor's jacket hangs to dry.
At ev'ry door are sun-burnt matrons seen,
Mending old nets to catch the scaly fry;
Now singing shrill, and scolding eft between;
Scolds answer foul-mouth'd scolds; bad neighbour-
hood I ween.

III.

The snappish cur (the passengers annoy)
 Close at my heel with yelping treble flies ;
 The whim'ring girl, and hoarser-screaming boy,
 Join to the yelping treble, shrilling cries ;
 The scolding Quean to louder notes doth rise,
 And her full pipes those shrilling cries confound ;
 To her full pipes the grunting hog replies ;
 The grunting hogs alarm the neighbours round,
 And curs, girls, boys, and scolds, in the deep base
 are drown'd,

IV.

Hard by a Sty, beneath a roof of thatch,
 Dwelt Obloquy, who in her early days
 Baskets of fish at Billingsgate did watch,
 Cod, whiting, oyster, mackrel, sprat, or plaice :
 There learn'd she speech from tongues that never cease,
 Slander beside her, like a Mag-pie, chatters,
 With Envy, (spitting Cat) dread foe to peace ;
 Like a curs'd Cur, Malice before her clatters,
 And vexing ev'ry wight, tears clothes and all to tatters,

V.

Her dugs were mark'd by ev'ry Collier's hand,
 Her mouth was black as bull-dogs at the stall :
 She scratched, bit, and spar'd ne lace ne band,
 And bitch and rogue her answer was to all ;
 Nay, e'en the parts of shame by name would call :

Yea, when she pass'd by or lane or nook,
Would greet the man who turn'd him to the Wall,
And by his hand obscene the porter took,
Nor ever did askance like modest Virgin look.

VI.

Such place hath Deptford, navy building town,
Woolwich and Wapping, smelling strong of pitch;
Such Lambeth, envy of each band and gown,
And Twick'nam such, which fairer scenes enrich,
Grots, statues, urns, and Jo—n's Dog and Bitch,
Ne village is without, on either side,
All up the silver Thames, or all adown;
Ne Richmond's self, from whose tall front are ey'd
Vales, spires, meandering streams, and Windsor's
tow'ry pride.



III.

WALLER.

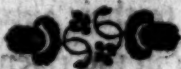
Of a LADY singing to her LUTE.

FAIR Charmer, cease, nor make your voice's prize
 A heart resign'd the conquest of your eyes:
 Well might, alas! that threatned vessel fail,
 Which winds and lightning both at once assail.
 We were too blest with these enchanting lays, 5
 Which must be heav'nly when an Angel plays:
 But killing charms your lover's death contrive,
 Left heav'nly music should be heard alive.
 Orpheus could charm the trees, but thus a tree,
 Taught by your hand, can charm no less than he: 10
 A poet made the silent wood pursue,
 This vocal wood had drawn the Poet too.



On a FAN of the Author's design, in
which was painted the story of CE-
PHALUS and PROCRIS, with the Motto,
AURA VENI.

COME, gentle Air ! th' Æolian shepherd said,
While Procris panted in the secret shade ;
Come, gentle Air, the fairer Delia cries,
While at her feet her swain expiring lies.
Lo the glad gales o'er all her beauties stray,
Breathe on her lips, and in her bosom play !
In Delia's hand this toy is fatal found,
Nor could that fabled dart more surely wound :
Both gifts destructive to the givers prove ;
Alike both lovers fall by those they love.
Yet guiltless too this bright destroyer lives,
At random wounds, nor knows the wound she gives :
She views the story with attentive eyes,
And pities Procris, while her lover dies.



IV.

COWLEY.

The GARDEN.

FAIN would my Muse the flow'ry Treasures sing,
 And humble glories of the youthful Spring;
 Where op'ning Roses breathing sweets diffuse,
 And soft Carnations show'r their balmy dews;
 Where Lilies smile in virgin robes of white, 5
 The thin Undress of superficial Light,
 And vary'd Tulips show so dazzling gay,
 Blushing in bright diversities of day.
 Each painted flowret in the lake below
 Surveys its beauties, whence its beauties grow; 10
 And pale Narcissus on the bank, in vain
 Transformed, gazes on himself again.
 Here aged trees Cathedral Walks compose,
 And mount the Hill in venerable rows:
 There the green Infants in their beds are laid, 15
 The Garden's Hope, and its expected shade.
 Here Orange-trees with blooms and pendants shine,
 And vernal honours to their autumn join;
 Exceed their promise in the ripen'd store,
 Yet in the rising blossom promise more. 20
 There in bright drops the crystal Fountains play,
 By Laurels shielded from the piercing day:

Where Daphne, now a tree as once a maid,
 Still from Apollo vindicates her shade,
 Still turns her beauties from th' invading beam, 25
 Nor seeks in vain for succour to the Stream,
 The stream at once preserves her virgin leaves,
 At once a shelter from her boughs receives,
 Where Summer's beauty midst of Winter stays,
 And Winter's Coolness spite of Summer's rays. 30



W E E P I N G.

WHILE Celia's Tears make sorrow bright;

Proud Grief sits swelling in her eyes;

The Sun, next those the fairest light,

Thus from the Ocean first did rise:

And thus thro' Mists we see the sun,

Which else we durst not gaze upon.

These silver drops, like morning dew,

Foretell the fervour of the day:

So from one Cloud soft show'rs we view,

And blasting lightnings burst away.

The Stars that fall from Celia's eye,

Declare our Doom in drawing nigh.

The Baby in that sunny sphere

So like a Phaëton appears,

That Heav'n, the threaten'd World to spare,

Thought fit to drown him in her tears:

Else might th' ambitious Nymph aspire,

To set, like him, Heav'n too on fire!

V.

E. of ROCHESTER.

On SILENCE.

SILENCE! coeval with Eternity;
 Thou wert, ere Nature's self began to be,
 'Twas one vast Nothing, all, and all slept fast in thee.

II.

Thine was the sway, ere heav'n was form'd, or earth,
 Ere fruitful Thought conceiv'd creation's birth,
 Or midwife Word gave aid, and spoke the infant forth.

III.

Then various elements, against thee join'd,
 In one more various animal combin'd,
 And fram'd the clam'rous race of busy Human-kind.

IV.

The tongue mov'd gently first, and speech was low,
 'Till wrangling Science taught it noise and show,
 And wicked Wit arose, thy most abusive foe.

V.

But rebel Wit deserts thee oft' in vain;
 Lost in the maze of words he turns again,
 And seeks a surer state, and courts thy gentle reign.

VI.

Afflicted Sense thou kindly dost set free,
 Oppress'd with argumental tyranny,
 And routed Reason finds a safe retreat in thee.

VII.

With thee in private modest Dulness lies,
 And in thy bosom lurks in Thought's disguise;
 Thou varnisher of Fools, and cheat of all the Wise!

VIII.

Yet thy indulgence is by both confess;
 Folly by thee lies sleeping in the breast,
 And 'tis in thee at last that Wisdom seeks for rest.

IX.

Silence the knave's repute, the whore's good name,
 The only honour of the wishing dame;
 The very want of tongue makes thee a kind of Fame.

X.

But could'st thou seize some tongues that now are
 free,
 How Church and State should be oblig'd to thee?
 At Senate, and at Bar, how welcome would'st thou be?

XI.

Yet speech ev'n there, submissively withdraws,
 From rights of subjects, and the poor man's cause:
 Then pompous Silence reigns, and stills the noisy Laws.

XII.

Past services of friends, good deeds of foes,
What Fav'rites gain, and what the Nation owes,
Fly the forgetful world, and in thy arms repose.

XIII.

The country wit, religion of the town,
The courtier's learning, policy o' th' gown,
Are best by thee express'd; and shine in thee alone.

XIV.

The parson's cant, the lawyer's sophistry,
Lord's quibble, critic's jest; all end in thee,
All rest in peace at last, and sleep eternally.



VI.

E. of DORSET.

ARTEMISIA.

THO' Artemisia talks, by fits,
 Of councils, classics, fathers, wits,
 Reads Malbranche, Boyle, and Locke:
 Yet in some things methinks she fails,
 'Twere well if she would pare her nails,
 And wear a cleaner smock.

Haughty and huge as High-Dutch bride,
 Such nastiness, and so much pride,
 Are oddly join'd by fate:
 On her large squab you find her spread, 10
 Like a fat corpse upon a bed,
 That lies and stinks in state.

She wears no colours (sign of grace)
 On any part except her face;
 All white and black beside: 15
 Dauntless her look, her gesture proud,
 Her voice theatrically loud,
 And masculine her stride.

So have I seen, in black and white
 A prating thing, a Magpye high;
 Majestically stalk; 20
 A stately, worthless animal,
 That plies the tongue, and wags the tail,
 All flutter, pride, and talk.

P H R Y N E.

PHRYNE had talents for mankind,
Open she was, and unconfin'd,

Like some free port of trade:

Merchants unloaded here their freight,

And Agents from each foreign state,

Here first their entry made.

Her learning and good breeding such,

Whether th' Italian or the Dutch,

Spaniards or French came to her:

To all obliging she'd appear:

'Twas *Si Signior*, 'twas *Yaw Mynbeen*,

'Twas *S'il vous plait, Monsieur*.

Obscure by birth, renown'd by crimes,

Still changing names, religions, climes,

At length she turns a Bride:

In di'monds, pearls, and rich brocades,

She shines the first of batter'd jades,

And flutters in her pride.

So have I known those Insects fair

(Which curious Germans hold so rare)

Still vary shapes and dyes;

Still gain new titles with new forms;

First grubs obscene, then wriggling worms,

Then painted butterflies.



VII.

DR. SWIFT.

The Happy Life of a COUNTRY PARSON.

PARSON, these things in thy possessing
 Are better than the Bishop's blessing.
 A Wife that makes conserves; a Steed
 That carries double when there's need;
 October store, and best Virginia,
 Tythe-Pig, and mortuary Guinea;
 Gazettes sent gratis down, and frank'd,
 For which thy Patron's weekly thank'd;
 A large Concordance, bound long since;
 Sermons to Charles the First, when Prince;
 A Chronicle of ancient standing;
 A Chrysostom to smoothe thy band in;
 The Polyglott—three parts,—my text,
 Howbeit,—likewise—now to my next;
 Lo here the Septuagint,—and Paul,
 To sum the whole,—the close of all.

He that has these, may pass his life,
 Drink with the 'Squire, and kiss his wife;
 On Sundays preach, and eat his fill;
 And fast on Fridays—if he will;
 Toast Church and Queen, explain the News,
 Talk with Church-Wardens about Pews,
 Pray heartily for some new Gift,
 And shake his head at Doctor S—t.

END of the SECOND VOLUME.



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